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ECONOMY MINISTER DISCUSSES CONTACTS IN BRAZIL

PY051922Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1241 GMT 5 Dec 78 PY

[Excerpt] Buenos Aires, 5 Dec 78 (NA)--Economy Minister Jose Alfredo Martinez de Hoz said today in Brasilia that he and Brazilian Mines and Energy Minister Shigeaki Ueki had gone over "all the possibilities offered by our border rivers as sources of energy, including not only current subjects related to Itaipu and Corpus, but also others related to the common utilization in the future of the Uruguay River along the Argentine-Brazilian border."

Speaking on a taped radio program, Martinez de Hoz declared that his first day of contacts with high-ranking Brazilian officials, including President Ernesto Geisel, "had been very positive because it demonstrated that we are all motivated by the same broad and cordial spirit to overcome differences and move forward into a new phase of mutural benefit for the two countries." In addition to those already mentioned, Minister Martinez de Hoz talked with other Brazilian Government officials, and he particularly stressed the results of his talk with Brazilian Economy Minister Mario Simonsen. During the meetings, Martinez de Hoz said, "We probed deeply into various economic, financial and commercial topics with the intention of improving and enlarging the area of Argentine-Brazilian relations."

Martinez de Hoz termed as "insuffient" the volume of Brazilian-Argentine trade which currently totals $800 million, adding that "this figure should double in a short time, provided the two governments start encouraging this trade by removing some existing stumbling blocks and by finding new lines, particularly of industrial products, capable of increasing reciprocal and complementary export-import operations."

The Argentine economy minister also said that "we have examined the various financial means to facilitate not only trade operations, but investments as well, in the form of joint private undertakings by Brazilian and Argentine companies or groups of companies to supply the internal market of either country, and even third-country markets."

Martinez de Hoz added: "To sum up, we have decided to immediately create work groups to see to it that practical and concrete results can be obtained as soon as possible."

Answering a question, Martinez de Hoz said that he had talked with Minister Shigeaki Ueki, not only about the utilization of common rivers, but also about questions related to "joint mining and related activities, since we are currently importing from Brazil iron ore and other such products." To that effect, Martinez de Hoz indicated the "existence of mutual interest in forming joint enterprises to move forward with the processing of these minerals by the installation of processing plants on Argentine territory with Brazilian-Argentine capital." Martinez de Hoz added that Minister Ueki "is enthusiastic" over the initiative.

NO ACCORD REACED IN ARGENTINA-CHILE BOUNDARY DISPUTE

PY051355Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0450 GMT 5 Dec 78 PY

[Text] Santa Fe, 5 Dec (TELAM)--A change in the Chilean position prevented a complete and final agreement from being reached in the negotiations concerning the southern dispute, according to Brig Gen Ricardo Etcheverry Boneo (ret). Etcheverry Boneo was the chairman of the Argentine delegation to the second joint commission which sought a definite solution to the boundary dispute.

He said that the meeting of the foreign ministers of Argentina and Chile to be held on 12 December is very important, and explained that we have to take part in it.

Etcheverry Boneo stated: After long and patient negotiations, we arrived at agreements which were just centimeters away from a solution. Unfortunately, however, a change in the Chilean position prevented us from reaching a complete and final agreement.

General Etcheverry made these remarks after a lengthy meeting with Vice Adm Jorge Anibal Desimoni (ret), the governor of Santa Fe Province. According to Etcheverry, they discussed issues related to provincial administration. Etcheverry retains the post of secretary for community action in Santa Fe.

POPE TO BE PROPOSED AS MEDIATOR WITH CHILE

PY051807Y Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1430 GMT 5 Dec 78 PY

[Text] Buenos Aires, 5 Dec (NA)--According to military sources, Argentina may propose to Chile the selection of Pope John Paul II as mediator in the border conflict between the two countries. This report was released at almost the same time yesterday as President Jorge Videla was meeting with Cardinal Jose Francisco Primatesta. After the meeting, it was learned that the possibility of beginning such contacts was proposed. According to the unofficial report, the Argentine initiative will be proposed to Chile during the meeting which the two foreign ministers, Carlos Pastor and Hernan Cubillos, will hold on 12 December.

It is believed in official circles that the only acceptable mediation for Argentina is the pope, but before such mediation it will be necessary for the two foreign ministers to reach basic agreement on such matters as respect for the principle of oceanic division of the sovereignty of the two nations. Military sources also stated that initial contacts have been made with the Vatican secretary of state, through the Argentine ambassador to the Vatican, Ruben Blanco, aimed at getting the pope's approval of the request for mediation if submitted by Argentina and Chile. The same spokesmen stated their cautious optimism regarding the success of this request and noted that the contacts made in the Vatican have been positive.

Government Denies Asking Pope

PY060140Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0020 GMT 6 Dec 78 PY

[Communique released by the press secretariat of the presidency on 5 December in Buenos Aires]

[Text] In view of press reports relating to certain feelers made by the Argentine Republic with the intention of asking Pope John Paul II to mediate in the conflict with the Republic of Chile, the national government informs the public that these reports do not conform to the facts.

PRESIDENT PADILLA INTERVIEWED AT SCHOOL CEREMONY

PY011834Y La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 1 Dec 78 PY

[Text] The government is carefully studying the documents which refer to the possibility of a sale of natural gas to Brazil. Since this question is important, thorough studies are being made in order to establish if the country will benefit if the deal is closed.

This remark was made by Gen David Padilla Arancibia, president of the military government junta, when he was interviewed by the press after the closing of the study year of the "Mariscal Sucre" military engineering school. He said:

[Begin recording] The matter is so delicate and important that we are studying it in all its details to establish its benefits to the country. [end recording]

He also said that the timetable and the measures which will be taken to initiate the electoral process will be made known within 10 days.

Concerning the request to intervene with regard to the deaths of Gen Joaquin Zenteno Anaya [former Bolivian ambassador to France, murdered by terrorists in Paris on 11 May 1976] and Col Andres Selich [arrested in May 1973 for plotting against President Hugo Banzer, killed by Interior Ministry interrogators in La Paz], General Padilla said that this is a matter for the regular courts.

Answering another question, he denied that his government has granted any diplomatic appointment to Gen Juan Pereda Asbun.

POLITICAL PARTIES NAME CANDIDATES FOR NEXT ELECTIONS

PY051837Y La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 5 Dec 78 PY

[Excerpt] The political parties have begun to announce the candidates who will compete in the coming elections.

The first proclamation was published by the Social Christian Party [PSC], which proclaimed the names of Gen Hugo Banzer Suarez and Jaime Humerez as presidential and vice presidential candidates. As is known, Banzer announced his decision to participate actively in politics in the next elections before he was dismissed from his post as ambassador to Argentina. Many of his followers are waiting for Banzer's arrival to define their positions.

The historic National Revolutionary Movement [MNR] has proclaimed Victor Paz Estenssoro's candidacy. The party is seeking to unite the dispersed MNR ranks to present a solid and popular front, but it excludes from this unification the National Revolutionary Movement of the Left [MNRI], led by Hernan Siles Zuazo.

The MNRI has proclaimed the name of its leader, Hernan Siles Zuazo, as presidential candidate. This will be the second time that the two top MNR leaders, who made the revolution of April 1952 possible, will confront each other in an election, as they did last July.

As for the Bolivian Socialist Falange [FSB], the "O" cell has proclaimed Mario Gutierrez Gutierrez, asking the FSB to close its ranks around its old leader and ignore a small group of dissidents.

This is the present political situation, and more news is expected in the next few days.

BANZER CABLES PADILLA ON BEING RELIEVED OF DUTIES

PY020115Y La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 0300 GMT 2 Dec 78 PY

[Text] Gen Hugo Banzer Suarez, former president and former Bolivian ambassador to Argentina, has stated that the decision made by the government military junta relieving him of his duties was "stupid." He also stated that his future political activity will be directly oriented toward contributing to the unity of the Bolivian people.

The cable sent by Banzer to the president of the government military junta, Gen David Padilla Arancibia, stated: "I acknowledge the decision to relieve me as ambassador to Argentina. I thank the armed forces for the trust placed in me during the short period of time I spent in this honorable post. My decision to take part in domestic politics, which I communicated to the president before he confirmed my position, is oriented toward contributing to the unity of the Bolivian people, upholding nationalistic and Christian principles, and struggling for the defense of our nation against those who are trying to undermine its unity and values. I wish to emphasize that I have never intended to be the official candidate of any regime.

"In observance of your decision, I report that today I handed this embassy over to the minister counsellor. I greatly lament the stupidity of this treatment of a Bolivian who only wished to represent his country with dignity."

MRS TORRES ASKS PROBE OF HUSBAND'S DEATH

PY290131Y La Paz Radio Panamericana Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 29 Nov 78 PY

[Text] (Emma Oblea Torres), the widow of former President Gen Juan Jose Torres, has asked the military government junta to investigate the motives for the assassination of the former president.

In a public letter, Mrs Torres maintains that she encountered persistant silence from the Banzer and Pereda governments with regard to her husband's assassination. In view of this, she states, the takeover of 24 November renewed her hope for justice. She also adds: I trust that the new government, which has declared its support for the principles of honor and respectability, will go ahead with this investigation which I demand and which the people of Bolivia demand.

In addition, the widow of the president who ruled this country from October 1970 until August 1971 believes that the violations against human rights committed during the following 7 years should be cleared up.

BRAZILIAN, ARGENTINE MINISTERS OPEN ECONOMIC TALKS

PY051518Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2337 GMT 4 Dec 78 PY

[Excerpt] Brasilia, 4 Dec (TELAM)--The creation of a framework for complementary regional economics and the need to build a common front to oppose the so-called protectionism of industrialized nations are the main subjects of talks between Argentine Economy Minister Jose Alfredo Martinez de Hoz and Brazilian Finance Minister Mario Henrique Simonsen, both of whom were received by President Ernesto Geisel yesterday.

During his first day of official activities in Brazil, the Argentine minister and his entourage, who arrived yesterday, met with officials of the Finance Ministry to discuss a broad agenda which includes the possibility of increasing bilateral trade relations and reactivating the special Argentine-Brazilian Commission for Coordination (CEBAC) which deals with economic cooperation.

The meeting between the two ministers and their advisers was opened by Mario Henrique Simonsen who made a short speech stressing the significance of the visit of the Argentine economy minister, who has to his credit a number of outstanding economic successes, which serve to prove Argentina's economic recovery.

"We are geographical neighbors. We have strong bonds of friendship and a similar language which allows us to talk freely in order to attain a marked rapprochement between our economies," the Brazilian finance minister stated.

Martinez de Hoz stated in turn that "there are some who believe that Argentina is Brazil's rival, but that is not so. Most people think otherwise. They believe that besides being friends we must become partners in a number of projects. The lasting foundations which we are now laying for our economies," the Argentine minister said, "encourage us to believe that we will overcome our problems by means of joint actions inspired by the need for mutual cooperation."

The two ministers agreed to create subcommissions and put them to work on the main issues within the field of bilateral economic relations, apart from arranging an early meeting of CEBAC. These subcommissions, four altogether, will have to study the possibilities of eliminating or reducing the restrictions which hinder trade between the two countries; draw up an agreement which would terminate double taxation in both industries and trade; discover new trade items, especially industrialized products where there can be mutual complementation; and coordinate aspects of maritime and land transport in trade.

It was also agreed to coordinate Argentine and Brazilian action in the face of the so-called protectionism of highly developed industrialized countries by means of voluntary restrictions. In this regard the parties recalled Argentina's proposal to LAES (the Latin American Economic System) which was aimed at protecting the interests of less industrialized countries.

The parties also showed a marked desire to reach an agreement on the rules for bilateral trade and provide measures aimed at paving the way for Argentine and Brazilian enterprises to make reciprocal investments, as well as investments in third countries.

ECONOMISTS ASSESS IMPACT OF ORIT BOYCOTT

PY051833Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1638 GMT 5 Dec 78 PY

[Text] Santiago Chile, 5 Dec (TELAM-EFE)--Chile will suffer losses of about $300 million in the wake of the boycott against any loading or unloading of freight by air, sea or overland to or from Chile declared by the Inter-American Regional Labor Organization [ORIT]. This calculation was released by government economists today. The estimate of official experts pulls the rug from under estimates made by more pesimistic sectors which predicted losses of more than $2.5 billon.

The chief of the study department of the national planning office, Enrique Goldfard, said that the problem is nevertheless serious and some of its effects were felt as soon as the boycott was announced--for instance, the suspension of purchase orders for Chilean products. He pointed out that in order to weaken the impact of the boycott, the government is studying formulas to boost trade with countries in which unions do not belong to ORIT, or in which unions do not recognize the ORIT boycott. Triangular operations and operations involving trade companies to hide the origin of the products are some of the formulas under consideration, Goldfard revealed. He recognized that the boycott will affect the country's level of employment and growth through changes in the apportionment of resources.

The campaign inviting people to a rally to repudiate the boycott has been stepped up in the media. This rally is to be held tomorrow, Wednesday, in Bulnes Plaza in this capital by supporters of the government. All businessmen's organizations have given their support to the rally, which will be attended by General Pinochet and other members of the government junta.

BOMB DAMAGES HOME OF FORMER MINISTER

PY051756Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1546 GMT 5 Dec 78 PY

[Excerpts] Santiago, Chile, 5 Dec (AFP)--The police have reported that a powerful bomb exploded today at the residence of Gen Alberto Spoerer (ret), a former health minister of the Chilean military regime. The bomb seriously damaged the entrance to the house and two vehicles parked in the garage, and the shock wave broke windows.

This is the third bombing reported here in the last 2 weeks. However, there have been no injuries or deaths.

The chief of the Santiago military police, Gen Juan Bautista Alegria, expressed the opinion that all these incidents were the work of one person, and announced the creation of an antiterrorist brigade to arrest those responsible.

DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER TO VISIT EGYPT

PY052317Y Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 2200 GMT 5 Dec 78 PY

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 5 Dec (EFE-TELAM) It was reported today, Tuesday, that Chilean President Augusto Pinochet will send a message to Egyptian President Anwar as-Sadat reiterating the affection and friendship between the two countries. Enrique Valdes Puga, Chilean deputy foreign minister, who will leave for Cairo on Thursday, will take the message. Valdes will preside over a meeting of the Egyptian-Chilean joint cooperation commission in Cairo, during which Chile will offer to Egypt, in addition to traditional products, technical assistance in decertification control programs [programas de control de decertificación] and in post graduate studies in economic matters.

GOVERNMENT READY FOR DIALOG WITH NEW VENEZUELAN PRESIDENT

PA041830Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 4 Dec 78 PA

[Text] The Colombian Government today praised the democratic election process in Venezuela, where a new president was elected yesterday. Foreign Minister Diego Uribe Vargas said Venezuelans have once more provided an example of civic behavior [words indistinct] and that democracy has been strengthened.

He asserted that the Colombian Government is ready to enter into a dialog with the new Venezuelan chief executive to seek the solution to the marine and submarine demarcation problem. The minister said: We are sure that we will reach an understanding with the new president.

TURBAY ASKS CAUTION IN EXPANSION OF COFFEE PRODUCTION

PA041851Y Bogota Radio Cadena Nacional in Spanish 1730 GMT 4 Dec 78 PA

[Text] The government today asked coffeegrowers to be prudent in expanding their cultivations and guaranteed the domestic price of coffee as long as external conditions permit. In opening the national coffeegrowers congress here today, President Turbay Ayala said that coffeegrowers who seek better prices should not expand their cultivations excessively, since this affects the marketing capability of the federation and compromises the nation's fiscal policy. At the same time, he announced that the government will intensify its efforts to establish stricter controls over coffee smuggling, a phenomenon which described as disloyal competition with coffeegrowers and a hard blow at the national treasury. He also said that maritime ports will be improved so that shipping is not delayed. Turbay Ayala expressed concern at the way in which small coffeegrowers are selling their properties. He said that this may cause a serious social problem.

MAGAZINE STAFF RESIGNS AFTER SALE TO SOMOZA RELATIVE

PA301613Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 1502 GMT 30 Nov 78 PA

[Text] Bogota, 30 Nov (EFE)--The sale of the international magazines VISION and PROGRESO to a son-in-law of Nicaraguan President Anastasio Somoza caused former Colombian President Alberto Lleras Camargo and the entire staff of writers to resign. It was originally reported that Lleras was withdrawing from the chairmanship of the editorial council for personal reasons, but today, Thursday, it was learned that the reason was political. Richard Rapold, a Swiss citizen and the magazines' new owner, is married to one of Somoza's daughters. Somoza's government has just been condemned by the OAS.

Eddie Rodriguez Feliu, the former majority stockholder in the magazines, told Lleras and his other close colleagues that he had sold his shares to Rapold, an intermediary of the Somoza family, a fact which took the staff by surprise. The personnel will reportedly be reorganized within the next few days, and the director will probably be reorganized within the next few days, and the director will probably be a European journalist.

AIRLINES PROTEST AIR FORCE ATTACK ON AIRLINER

PA051517Y Bogota Cadena Radial Super in Spanish 1100 GMT 5 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Bogota--Colombia's commercial airline companies which fly over the coast and Guajira yesterday angrily protested to the president and the defense minister over the irresponsible way in which the crew of a Colombian Air Force plane fired on a Savina Airline plane on one of its flights to northeast Colombia.

It has been announced that the crew of the military plane will be punished because, although it knew that the plane was carrying passengers, it opened fire on the plane three times. The pilot was able to evade the bursts of machinegun fire. Fortunately, the Savina airliner was able to land and, apart from their great fright, the passengers were not injured.

This irresponsible action led the national board of the pilots association to convene an urgent meeting in the next few hours to discuss the serious situation. Likewise, several private companies which fly to northern Colombia have expressed their protest to the national government. The Savina airplane, registry No HK1567, was flying between Cucuta and Santa Marta when the incident occurred.

FARC MURDERS PEASANTS, STEALS FUNDS

PA011752Y Bogota EL ESPECTADOR in Spanish 28 Nov 78 p 1-A PA

[By Felix Manrique Perdomo]

[Text] Neiva, Colombia, 27 Nov--The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) have carried out a new attack, during which they killed three peasants, kidnaped a merchant and stole 1.5 million pesos from the agrarian fund office in Caqueta.

The events began at approximately 1400 on 25 November in the Inspectorship of Rionegro, Doncello Municipality, Intendancy of Caqueta, when some 15 heavily armed men wearing military uniforms appeared suddenly in the town and kidnaped merchant Alvaro Santofimio.

After kidnaping Santofimio, the bandits went to Rionegro, seized two boats, and went to the Inspectorship of Cartagena del Chaira via the Caguan River. There they vilely killed peasants Isidro Chaux, Miguel Antonio Vega and Pedro N. [as received] Naturally, this action caused alarm in the region.

Brief reports on these events were published by the press only yesterday afternoon. According to those reports, the FARC members held up the agrarian fund office in Cartagena del Chaira, where they encountered no resistance, and stole 1.5 million pesos from the fund, leaving it without financial resources to grant loans to the peasants in that region.

ARMY KILLS FARC GUERRILLAS DURING CLASHES

PA051200Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0318 GMT 5 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Bogota, 4 Dec (AFP)--It was reported here tonight that a member of the pro-Soviet self-styled Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) was killed and another captured during a clash between members of that subversive group and the army in the northeastern part of the country.

The Defense Ministry announced that regular army troops clashed with the guerrillas in a mountainous section of the Santander Department, where four engagements have taken place in the past 5 days.

The Defense Ministry also reported that during the skirmishes 10 guerrillas were killed and 1 was injured while the army suffered no casualties.

SERIOUSLY WOUNDED POLITICIAN FLOWN TO NEW YORK

PA011542Y Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 1255 GMT 1 Dec 78 PA

[Excerpt] Economist Abdon Calderon Munoz was taken to New York last night to receive better medical treatment in an effort to save his life. A well-equipped U.S. hospital airplane arrived in Guayaquil shortly after 2000 to permit the doctors accompanying the politician to care for him properly during the flight.

Despite his evident recovery early in the evening at Santa Marianita Clinic, he is still in critical condition and is under the continuous care of the staff of surgeons who operated on him Wednesday night and early Thursday morning.

ELECTORAL TRIBUNAL ASKS FOR POLITICIANS' SUGGESTIONS

PA011601Y Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 1255 GMT 1 Dec 78 PA

[Excerpt] After 4 days of discussions and even moments of inertia, the Supreme Electoral Tribunal has decided to ask political parties to suggest a procedure for announcing the results of the first round in the presidential elections. The decision was adopted by four members of the electoral tribunal who composed a majority. Two other tribunal members were in favor of asking the government to issue a supreme decree reforming the elections law. The seventh tribunal member insisted that the tribunal has the power to issue its own resolutions to solve problems in the electoral process.

The votes in the tribunal only confirmed the differences that have arisen among its members. These differences were anticipated on Thursday when it was announced that tribunal member Gil Vela Vasco had resigned. Vela Vasco supported the electoral tribunal's legislation in electoral matters and dismissed the notion of an alleged legal vacuum. Although he resigned, Vela Vasco attended the Thursday session to maintain his position in support of the election law up to the last minute.

Foot-Dragging Causes Skepticism

PA021658Y Quito Cadena del Triunfo in Spanish 1255 GMT 2 Dec 78 PA

[Text] The Supreme Electoral Tribunal's decision to postpone the announcement of the results of the vote count has been received with general skepticism by the citizens and several political parties. Reactions to this decision have ranged from distrust to the suspicion that the Black Hand [Mano Negra] is back again.

Some pessimistic views were expressed by Julio Cesar Trujillo, national director of People's Democracy, which supports Jaime Roldos' presidential candidacy. He said that this was another stratagem favoring the political sectors that want the dictatorship to remain in power until they can find another system suitable to their interests to replace the current efforts being made to restore the constitutional system. Trujillo added that there is no reason for the tribunal to keep on postponing the announcement of the 16 July election results, belatedly alleging the implementation of some aspect of Chapter 3 of the electoral law.

RESOLUTION DECLARES MINERS STRIKE ILLEGAL

PY051628Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 5 Dec 78 PY

[Supreme resolution issued 4 December]

[Text] In view of the fact that the mining industry has been declared in a state of emergency by Supreme Decree [number indistinct], that despite this state of emergency the Labor Ministry has verified that the mineworkers of the Cuajone copper mine, which belongs to the Southern Peru Copper Corporation, have gone on strike on instructions from the Mineworkers Union of the Southern Peru Copper Corporation, and that in line with Articles 2 and 3 of the above decree, the Labor Ministry must issue the appropriate classification for this strike, it is hereby resolved:

1. The strike engaged in by the workers mentioned in this resolution is illegal and the workers must return to work before 9 December at the latest.

2. The present resolution will be countersigned by the ministers of labor and energy and mines.

3. It is so ordered.

Signed: Div Gen Francisco Morales Bermudez Cerrutti, president, Maj Gen Jose Garcia Calderon Keoechlin, minister of labor, Gen Juan Sanchez Gonzalez, minister of energy and mines.

Further Details

PA051225Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0138 GMT 5 Dec 78 PA

[Excerpts] The government's resolution was announced this evening. The resolution notes that the mining industry was declared in a state of emergency 2 years ago and that in line with this situation, strikers and persons instigating strikes will be dismissed from their jobs.

Cuajone is located 950 km south of Lima, in the department of Moquegua. The mine produces 180,000 tons of copper annually. It is exploited by the Southern Peru Copper Corporation, a U.S. company. The Cuajone workers' labor union has 1,200 members. The union is asking that its list of demands be met, that several executives of the firm be dismissed and that Moquegua labor officials be withdrawn.

Victor Cuadors Paredes, secretary general of the National Miners Federation, told LATIN today that Cuajone has been "seized by more than 1,000 soldiers." He said the troops, which have been reinforced with civil guards and agents, are not allowing labor leaders to enter.

CONSTITUTION SAID TO BE READY BY MARCH OR APRIL

PY011438Y Lima Domestic Service in Spanish 1200 GMT 1 Dec 78 PY

[Text] [Constituent Assembly member] Andres Townsend Ezcurra has asserted that the new constitution will most probably be ready at the end of March or beginning of April and that the Constituent Assembly will immediately approve its articles in order to call the elections. He also asserted that President Francisco Morales Bermudez's recent statement repeating that the transfer of power to civilians must be advanced was enthusiastically [words indistinct] with the assembly. Townsend made these remarks just before traveling to Bogota, where he will participate in the meeting of the Latin American Parliament's executive board. Aspects related to a coming meeting of political leaders will be coordinated during the meeting.

ANDRES PEREZ DISCUSSES OIL PRICES, LATIN AMERICAN ISSUES

LD051135Y Barcelona LA VANGUARDIA in Spanish 30 Nov 78 pp 3-4 LD

[Luis Maria Anson interview in Caracas with Venezuelan President Andres Perez: "Oil Prices Will Rise by 10-12 Percent but Should Rise by 40 Percent"--date not specified]

[Excerpts] Caracas, 29 November--Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez has answered questions put for 4 hours by EFE news agency chairman Luis Maria Anson. His interview covers topics of the greatest interest, from the issue of oil prices to the situation in Iran; from his admiration for King Juan Carlos to his views on Prime Minister Suarez; from the Venezuelan elections to his work as leader.

"I respect and will enforce respect for the laws of Venezuelan democracy and the election result," he told me, after very cordially holding out his broad hand to me. And he said nothing else about the 3 December elections because Venezuela's constitution bars the president from taking part in the election campaign or supporting his party's candidate--on this occasion, Luis Pinerua of Democratic Action--"although, of course," he added, smiling, "everybody knows with whom my sympathies lie."

"Democracy is threatened by the disrepute of the municipal councils, which are often run by incompetent or corrupt people. For that reason, when I leave the presidency, I will concern myself with the municipal elections to insure that my party presents lists of reputable people and that we restore the municipalities' lost reputation."

"The continuation of my work," he asserted, measuring his words one by one, "is required by the planning which we have made for the Venezuela of the future. We have committed at least two constitutional periods to the major industrial, agricultural and cultural projects now underway. What is being done is irreversible, whichever candidate wins the elections."

[Question] Mr President, will oil prices rise or not?

[Answer] They will rise. Of course they will, they will rise. The only decision that lies in the hands of the developing countries is the setting of oil prices, and we are not going to forego it. The industrialized nations must realize that a new international economic order is necessary and inevitable. This is not a cliche but a reality. Oil is the means by which the big economic powers and the developing countries have been obliged to sit down at the same table.

[Question] How much will oil prices rise?

[Answer] If we OPEC countries were to take into account what inflation has entailed over the last few years, oil prices would rise by 40 percent.

[Question] But that would be a tragedy.

[Answer] It would, and that is why some of us believe that oil prices must be increased moderately.

[Question] What do you mean, Mr President, by moderation?

[Answer] Neither 40 percent nor an insignificant percentage--perhaps 10-12 percent, for instance, but this is a matter which must be debated within OPEC.

The president hesitated a moment, then added:

"The situation in Iran, which I regard as extremely grave, must also be taken into account. The destabilization of the regime could have incalculable consequences."

[Question] Are you more optimistic about the situation of the Andean Pact?

[Answer] Yes, it has been a miraculous success; we set ourselves bolder goals than the EEC itself. And we have made considerable progress. The formulation of the self-propelled policy, for instance, is of extraordinary importance, despite the fact that we were manipulated by the big multinationals, which attempted to provoke internal confrontations among us.

[Question] In the light of this optimism, how do you view relations between Colombia and Venezuela?

[Answer] They are excellent, despite the dispute over the delimination of maritime and undersea zones--a problem which I have striven to resolve, despite the emotional atmosphere surrounding this issue. A good deal of progress has been made. If I cannot resolve it, I hope that the next government will be able to do so.

"Where things are going very badly is in Nicaragua. What has happened there is really appalling. A veritable genocide has been perpetrated. Entire towns have been 'massacred.' Venezuela is working earnestly in international bodies to induce the OAS and the United Nations to make a decision which will put an end to the dictatorial dynasty which has created a gulf between the people and the regime."

Carlos Andres Perez paused a moment, then very briefly made telling comments on Latin American leaders.

"Lopez Portillo is a responsible leader with a progressive outlook, but without extremism. He could surmount Mexico's traditional isolationism with respect to Latin America."

[Question] And Torrijos?

[Answer] He is a historic man. His vigor and tenacity achieved the restoration of Panama's sovereignty over the canal. His relinquishment of power rounds off a genuine statesmanlike achievement.

[Question] Fidel Castro?

[Answer] He is the historic outcome of clumsy U.S. policy. There has recently been a positive evolution, but my opinion about the political system embodied by Fidel Castro cannot be favorable.

[Question] Do you believe, Mr President, that Spain should reach agreement with an inter-American common market rather than with the EEC?

[Answer] Both are desirable. Spain should join the Common Market and become a bridge with Latin America and Africa.

Carlos Andres Perez, who regards Spain's democratic development as a genuine miracle unforeseen by everybody, even the Spanish people, praised the king spontaneously.

"I am delighted from the outset by Juan Carlos' simplicity and above all by his genuineness, which is the most important aspect of a human being. When I met him, I realized that I was not with a man trained to keep up appearances but with one who felt what he said, with great political insight and with very deep-rooted and profound democratic sentiments."

[Question] And Adolfo Suarez?

[Answer] He is a brilliant man with a great sense of reality--a factor which determines success. He is imaginative, which is essential for creativity. Moreover, Suarez seems tailor-made for the period of democratic transition which Spain has undergone.

[Question] And Felipe Gonzalez?

[Answer] He is an extraordinarily important man--moderate and level-headed, and also imaginative and creative.

[Question] Mr President, I hope to see you in this office again in 10 years' time.

[Answer] I have no plans at present to run in elections in 10 years' time, but I am and always will be at the disposal of the Venezuelan people.

BRIEFS

DAILY OIL PRODUCTION DROPS--Caracas, 2 Dec (AFP)--The Energy and Mines Ministry has reported a drop of 5.3 percent in Venezuela's daily oil production between 28 November 1977 and 28 November 1978. In 1977, the average production was 2.262 million barrels a day. This year it was 2.149 million barrels, for a net drop of 113.788 barrels. According to an official explanation, the decrease stems from a reduction in purchases by industrialized consuming countries. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1407 GMT 2 Dec 78 PA]

1979 BUDGET HIGHEST IN COUNTRY'S HISTORY

PA011759Y Madrid EFE in Spanish 0134 GMT 1 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 30 Nov (EFE)--Finance and Public Credit Secretary David Ibarra Munoz announced here today that the Mexican government's budget for 1979 will be equivalent to $5 billion, the largest in the country's history. Speaking before the Federal Congress, the official stressed that investments will be made to reduce the country's high unemployment rate. He also said that Mexico's economic growth for this year will reach 6 percent, as opposed to the initial estimate of 5.5 percent. Ibarra added that the federal government's expenses will seek to avoid pressures on the demand for products, "taking into consideration the need to strengthen the economy." [sentence as received]

Regarding inflation, he said that the authorities have set the goal of limiting it to 12 or 13 percent in 1979, as opposed to the 17 percent ceiling sought for 1978. Ibarra admitted that "not all" of the country's economic "problems have been resolved," and noted that the government's policy seeks to promote investments, improve public finance, increase employment sources and improve the distribution of wealth.

Finally, he indicated that the expected oil revenues, which reportedly will amount to $5 billion in 1980, will help stabilize the country's balance of payments. The budget announced is the highest in the country's history and exceeds the one for the current year by 23 percent.

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS NOT INVOLVED IN ITT BRIBERY

PA031551Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1726 GMT 2 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Mexico City, 2 Dec (AFP)--The North American International Telephone and Telegraph (ITT) Company did not bribe any Mexican official to improve its local sales, it was officially announced here today. The government's director of investigations made the statement following a thorough investigation into the charges of bribery of Mexicans by ITT, which emerged during a trial against the company now in progress in the United States. The director of investigations pointed out that only the ITT salesmen benefited. He added that there had been misinterpretations and twisted reports since no proof was obtained to substantiate the charges that any of the persons allegedly involved had been bribed. The report on ITT's corruption of government officials had created great alarm in Mexican political circles. The issue was even being taken up in the Lower House, which was unable to investigate the case.

FOUR NEW POLITICAL GROUPS GAIN OFFICIAL APPROVAL

PA301251Y Mexico City International Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 30 Nov 78 PA

[Excerpt] The Federal Electoral Commission in Tuesday night's meeting approved, by a majority vote, the registration of four national political groups so that they can participate in the 1979 electoral process. The agreement was made in the Juarez Room at the Government Secretariat during a meeting presided over by the government secretary, who said that this affirms an old principle in our political evolution: All ideas can be accomodated in Mexico. The political organizations are: Leftist Communist Unity [UIC], Community Action [ACOMAC], Movement for the Workers Revolutionary Party [MPRT] and Unification and Progress [UPAC].

PRESIDENT, LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL HOLD DIALOG

PA011245Y Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 2315 GMT 30 Nov 78 PA

[Text] Panamanian President Aristides Royo and the National Legislative Council today began a dialog leading to a better-coordinated national orientation for the good of the country. National Council President Victor Corrales said that the purpose is to have the two powers, the executive and the legislative, act in an independent but not separate manner. Communication and joint efforts are needed, said Corrales.

The meeting began today at 1000 in the Justo Arosemena Palace Blue Room with the participation of Vice President Ricardo de la Espriella and advisors of the National Legislative Council.

During a 20-minute speech President Aristides Royo recalled that the last meeting of the two powers--the executive and judicial--took place on 1 October 1968 so that the first could dictate instructions to the second. Let us hope, the Panamanian president emphasized, that this will never happen again.

Royo said that the history of some Latin American countries has always included conflicts which are solved by political and economic deals between these powers, which is to say by means of distributing political plums. In this same Panamanian National Assembly, 90 percent of the payroll was made up of persons who did not work. This was the quota of posts given to the former deputies. These vices must not occur again in the country, the president emphasized.

Royo also said that legislators must never accept proposals to approve laws in exchange for jobs, facilities or contracts and that they should never request them. Legislators, the president said, should only ask if the law is good for the country and not if it will benefit some specific persons.

The president guaranteed a profound respect for the legislative body as well as the needed cooperation. There must be no laws approved hastily. What matters, the president said, is that bills are discussed for as long as is necessary. He warned the legislators that they will be subjected to pressures and vested interests in dealing with bills and that, as good Panamanians, they must be firm.

REPUBLICAN PARTY PREPARING FOR REGISTRATION

PA041403Y Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 2 Dec 78 p 4 PA

[From "Los Nombres y los Hechos" column]

[Text] Lorenzo Romagosa, president of the Republican Party directorate, has announced that the party is reorganizing its old cadres in the interior with an eye to next year's registration. The Republican Party recently won a prominent ally in Dr. Bernardino Gonzalez Ruiz.

COSTA RICA

CARAZO SEEKS CONFIRMATION OF REPORTS ON INCIDENT

PA051205Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 4 Dec 78 PA

[Text] President Carazo has requested that Echeverria Villafranca [Costa Rican ambassador to the United States] officially corroborate Nicaraguan national radio network reports which cite Kemil Dipp Gomez, president of the OAS special commission, as having confirmed that the incident in which two Civil Guard members were killed occurred on Nicaraguan territory.

President Carazo said that if the Dominican ambassador really made this statement, it would be a case of prevarication. If not, then it would be proved that the Nicaraguans say whatever they would like to hear.

Clarification Statement

PA051206Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 5 Dec 78 PA

[Text] The president of the OAS commission has refuted Nicaraguan news media. I have never said that the incident took place in Nicaragua, he noted. The commission is carrying out studies. The Nicaraguan news media reports have been on the investigation. The Nicaraguan Teleprensa newscast report has been refuted by Dipp Gomez.

The message sent by Kemil Dipp Gomez, president of the OAS investigating commission, to Foreign Minister Rafael Angel Calderon refutes the Nicaraguan news media report in which it was stated that the incident had taken place on Nicaraguan territory.

The Dominican ambassador, who presides over the special OAS investigating commission, has affirmed that he has never made any statement to the effect that the border incident in which two Costa Rican Civil Guard members died took place on Nicaraguan territory. At no time have we said where the action took place. We have only stated that the commission must and is carrying out studies based on the evidence obtained during the investigation.

We have never said that the incident took place on Nicaraguan territory, as Teleprensa has reported. These reports are false, Dipp Gomez states in his message to Calderon.

The message says that in the statements made to Teleprensa it was noted only that the commission was investigating the 21 November incident.

5,000 'MERCENARIES' MASSING TO INVADE NICARAGUA

PA050204Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0005 GMT 6 Dec 78 PA

[By Jose Joaquin Loria]

[Text] Penas Blancas, Costa Rica, close to the Nicaraguan border, 5 Dec (LATIN)--More than 5,000 foreigners, mostly Panamanians and Venezuelans, have joined the ranks of the self-styled Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN]. They have established camps in the Costa Rican Province of Guanacaste, and crossed the border in the last few days. Residents of the border area with Nicaragua confirmed these reports for LATIN.

The foreign contingent, which also includes Colombians, Mexicans and even Germans, according to Guanacaste residents who spoke with this agency and asked not to be identified, started to arrive in Costa Rica illegally 2 months ago.

They established their training camps in southern Guanacaste Province and slowly moved closer to the border. According to the people of Guanacaste, it is possible that the majority of them have crossed the border and are preparing to deal the final blow to Gen Anastasio Somoza's regime in Nicaragua. Nevertheless, the Nicaraguan National Guard has ample information on the mobilization of foreigners throughout Guanacaste Province and, with close to 3,000 men stationed between Penas Blancas and Puerto Soley in Nicaraguan territory, the National Guard awaits the guerrilla attack.

Despite the fact that the existence of foreigners in Guanacaste Province is a poorly kept secret throughout the region, the government says that it has no knowledge of them. The reports which circulate in Guanacaste state that many of the mercenaries--that is what they call them--have crossed into Nicaragua in ships which depart from strategic points on the Pacific coast of Guanacaste Province.

As a result of this situation the National Guard captured a Costa Rican ship several days ago near Puerto Soley, said one Guanacaste resident who was interviewed by this agency. Clandestine arms shipments have been going to Nicaragua by sea in addition to the infiltration of troops. The FSLN said through its chief, Eden Pastora, that it has a birthday present for Somoza. This warning made the National Guard double its vigilance on the border and forced the Costa Rican Government to be alert.

The Nicaraguan Army has 3,000 men along a strip of land less than 50 km between Penas Blancas and Puerto Soley. The Nicaraguan Government has all types of weapons in this area. Costa Rica has also adopted measures for the possibility of a border conflict. Its men, mostly inexperienced recruits who had been posted along the border, have been replaced by better trained and capable men, as are the men of the presidential guard.

The majority of the Costa Rican forces have already replaced their 30 caliber M-1 rifles with light rifle machineguns [fusiles ametralladoras ligeras--FAL], a sophisticated Belgian weapon. The FAL's are light, fire 150 rounds per minute and, with a special attachment, can be used as grenade launchers. In the Nicaraguan National Guard only the officers have FAL's available.

Meanwhile, throughout Guanacaste Province there is evident fear of a large-scale border struggle. Many families have begun to emigrate from the border in an effort to avoid the conflict. At the same time, there is an increasing exodus of Nicaraguans who pass through this border post into Costa Rica.

Presence of Foreigners Denied

PA060301Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 0100 GMT 6 Dec 78 PA

[Excerpts] According to a LATIN report, 5,000 foreigners have crossed the border at Penas Blancas. According to the report the foreigners were in Guanacaste. Deputy Public Security Minister Enrique Montealegre has made no comment in this regard, but he has denied that Guanacaste has given any protection to the Sandinists. The news agency also reports that a large number of Civil Guards have been deployed on the border with Nicaragua. This has been denied by Deputy Minister Montealegre.

NICARAGUA

SANDINIST LEADER ANNOUNCES EARLY OFFENSIVE AGAINST SOMOZA

PA0512407Y Paris AFP in Spanish 2133 GMT 5 Dec 78 PA

[By Beatrix Denis]

[Text] Managua, 5 Dec (AFP)--The new general offensive by the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN) will be launched at the end of this month or early in 1979, one of its leaders has told AFP.

The commander in chief of the Managua zone, of the Tertiary Faction, received this correspondent "somewhere in Nicaragua" and, for security reasons, demanded to remain anonymous, merely disclosing his rank within the underground movement. He explained that the FSLN had to postpone the end of the offensive [as received] due to the problems of the Broad Opposition Front (FAO), which had agreed to the plebiscite suggested by the international mediation commission from the United States, the Dominican Republic and Guatemala.

The Managua zone chief commented that the postponement had given them respite to arm their militias better and that the only problem his faction has is the ideological training of its recruits.

"The problem started in October of last year when people with little or no political preparation joined," he said, "and the urgent need was to train those people militarily first, forgetting for a time propaganda work."

The front leader emphasized that "we have been planning the revolution for 5 years now and we are not going to let it be recovered." [as received]

"With the February and September offensives we proved after 2 days of fighting in the south that we had caused the dictatorship to tremble," he added, "while after 3 weeks of a general strike the FAO did not even cause Somoza to smile."

"Our Marxist-Leninist line is very clear-cut," he went on, but he also admitted accepting "a change in strategy to pursue the insurrectional line of the other two factions of the front."

Concerning the latest remarks by Eden Pastora, whom he viewed as "a bourgeois, committed Christian who is not ideologically consistent [claro]," he disapproved of his apparent acceptance of social democracy. "We use him because he is an eminently capable military cadre. However, his personality has caused us many problems since, while in charge of the northern zone, he used his real name instead of the alias given him, thus endangering the structure of the organization, which as everybody knows is clandestine," he continued.

He revealed that "Commander Cero" had been estranged from the front for 3 years for that same attitude and that he was reintegrated as a unit commander only 2 years ago.

During last February's offensive there were five commanders who coordinated operations--he was one of us--but the Anastasio Somoza administration never knew who handled the operation because we acted as a team, as is our custom.

The Managua zone chief explained Pastora's emergence as due to the need inbred through U.S. influence that the people need to have figureheads. "We gave one to them," he added, "because during the takeover of the palace on 28 August he identified himself as the operation's Commander Cero."

He warned that the admission into the FSLN's ranks of what he called "bourgeois and petty bourgeois elements" was decided so that all those opposed to Somoza could close ranks and participate in toppling him. Our symbol was the so-called Group of 12, and when its members left the FAO, we reaffirmed our conviction that the only viable way to topple Somoza was armed struggle, he said.

The Managua zone chief termed the differences among the three groups "minimal" and stressed that all are called to fight against Somoza but under the single banner of the FSLN, all factions of which are united.

EDEN PASTORA FACTION REPORTS ON NOVEMBER ACTIONS

PA051945Y Paris AFP in Spanish 1849 GMT 5 Dec 78 PA

[Text] San Jose, 5 Dec (AFP)--The insurrectional [as received] faction of the Sandinist Front today reported that it had inflicted more than 20 casualties on the Nicaraguan National Guard in clashes during the second half of November.

War communique No 10, signed by Eden Pastora, Commander Cero, "somewhere in Nicaragua," indicates that during the past 15 days the faction had increased its actions against Somozist forces, particularly in the Pacific and south-central region of the country.

The communique added that the Ernesto Medrano column [words indistinct] destroyed National Guard posts in the San Juan River zone.

The guerrillas added that on 18 November they downed a helicopter with .50 caliber machinegun fire.

On the western front, the guerrillas said, they seized more than 1.5 million cordobas (about $200,000) in an attack on the Leon branch of the Banco de America. They also reported attacks on the garrisons of the cities of Leon and Achuapa, in Leon Department, in operations carried out on 25 and 26 November.

SANDINIST PEOPLE'S WAR FACTION ISSUES COMMUNIQUE

PA052008Y San Jose Radio Monumental in Spanish 1700 GMT 5 Dec 78 PA

[By Luis Saenz]

[Text] The Sandinist National Liberation Front's [FSLN] Prolonged People's War Faction has announced that the harassment campaign against the National Guard did not end with the uprising in September. In a communique released in San Jose and prepared by the foreign commission, it is indicated that Somoza collaborators were executed by FSLN squadrons.

Monumental's newsman Luis Saenz gives us the following report: [begin recording] The so-called Prolonged People's War Faction of the FSLN has taken credit for killing two who were collaborating with Anastasio Somoza's regime. In a communique released in San Jose the Sandinists affirm that these collaborators of the Somoza government were sentenced to death by a people's court. According to the Sandinist communique the two collaborators were accused of many crimes and violations to the detriment of Nicaraguans.

The communique notes that the FSLN continued to strike at the enemy in various Nicaraguan cities following the insurrection in September.

It has brought the people into harassment activities and supplying the materials required to continue the prolonged people's war. One of the most important aspects of these actions, the communique says, is precisely the participation of the people together with other fighters who are increasingly joining the revolutionary struggle in an organized manner. These activities are not spectacular in nature but they indeed have great popular value within the orientation of the program to teach the people to conquer by using their own forces to weaken the enemy.

The communique notes that the execution of former Sgt Pablo Espinosa Tellez was carried out on 9 November. He was responsible for the assassination by the National Guard on 15 September of 23 male inhabitants of El Callejon of Barrio Nuevo of Guadalupe and also for the persecution of countless inhabitants of Barrio Nuevo and [name indistinct] district in the city of Leon.

According to the communique, the operation was achieved by eight FSLN members who participated in the insurrectional movement and who joined in an organized manner, forming the Gabriel Avendano Vaca squadron. This name was chosen by them to render homage to a comrade of that sector who died in combat on 14 September.

In addition, the Sandinist communique notes that an attack and a harassment operation were carried out on 10 November on the (?Liberal) canton of the first zone of the [name indistinct] district in Managua. This operation was conducted by the 23 July squadron. On that same day, and always in accordance with the harassment plan, bombs were placed in the houses of two prominent Somoza followers.

Another arms-seizing operation called "arms to the masses revolutionarily" was effected by the Carlos Arroyo Pineda squadron after receiving information that a (?cache) was located in a house in a Managua district close to Salvadora de Somoza's house.

The Sandinist communique also notes that a propaganda operation was carried out in the districts of Leon. Its objective was to distribute bulletins among the population.

On the 14th a harassment operation was effected against the special brigade against assault (BECAT) patrols in Leon. It was carried out by the (Ibague Pugama), Carlos Arroyo and Felix (?Teodoro) Picado squadrons. Each one of them was composed of five Sandinists.

On the 17th a propaganda operation was carried out to commemorate the death of Pedro Arauz Palacios, a member of the FSLN national leadership. The work teams gathered at 1800 and material was distributed [words indistinct] with the following slogans: "Organize to fight, fight to organize" and "There will be no human force or (?technique) capable of stopping us." The Sandinists added that operations were carried out during the ensuing days to seize arms and to continue the harassment campaign against the enemy.

On the 17th the execution of Venancio L. Vegas was carried out. He had been singled out as being responsible for many crimes and of being an informant for the Somoza government. [end recording]

EDEN PASTORA INTERVIEWED BY DER SPIEGEL

DW041035Y Hamburg DER SPIEGEL in German 4 Dec 78 p 194 DW

[Interview with Eden Pastora, Sandinist military chief; no place given]

[Text] SPIEGEL: The united opposition set an ultimatum for dictator Somoza, demanding his resignation up until 20 November. Somoza did not accept it. What are you planning to do now?

Pastora: We want war. We will not enter the last battle for our freedom. All sectors of the opposition will partake in that offensive.

SPIEGEL: Why are you so certain that this will be the last battle against Somoza?

Pastora: Because we have more and better trained people now. And because we have more and better arms--including some we can use to defend ourselves against tanks and planes.

SPIEGEL: Is not the population of Nicaragua tired of the war?

Pastora: We can count on almost total support. We have seen in Chinandega and Esteli (towns in the west of the country where fighting was going on) how the people are helping. We will arm the people with very good arms this time. We have the political support of Panama, Costa Rica, Columbia, Venezuela, and Mexico. They will help us in the liberation fight.

SPIEGEL: Where does the money come from?

Pastora: From Nicaraguan economic circles and other Latin American countries. There also are worldwide organizations that are supporting us.

SPIEGEL: Governments also?

Pastora: The just-mentioned Latin American governments will give us at least moral support.

SPIEGEL: What is Cuba doing for you?

Pastora: During the long fight of the Sandinist Liberation Front, Somoza did not manage to produce one single Soviet rifle to emphasize the Cuban danger that way. He never was able to produce concrete evidence that Cuba supported us economically or militarily. No, Cuba always has been for us what Panama and Venezuela are now: a resort when we were persecuted--Cuba gave us only moral support.

SPIEGEL: Do you reckon with the possibility of direct military intervention by the United States?

Pastora: I do not think that the United States would be so foolish as to intervene in a conflict which quite clearly is a Nicaraguan affair. But if it does, we will face up to the problem. We on our part do not wish anybody to intervene, even on our behalf.

SPIEGEL: Do you reckon that, unlike September, the National Guard of Somoza will break up in the forthcoming offensive and that parts of the guard will support you?

Pastora: This is improbable. There is no normal professional army in Nicaragua but a praetorian guard around Somoza. There are no commanders with firmly delineated military districts having a certain military autonomy. Somoza is controlling everything himself from his palace. Hence, we will have to destroy the whole National Guard.

SPIEGEL: Do you have any evidence showing that Somoza is being armed by Israel?

Pastora: How could we fail to have evidence, what with all the Israeli arms which Somoza possesses, ranging from machineguns to missiles. It is clear why the Latin American dictatorships like Guatemala, El Salvador, and Argentina support the Somoza regime. But we cannot explain why Israel, a people that has suffered so much, nowadays sells arms to Somoza.

I lodge protest against the Nobel Peace Prize award to Israeli Government chief Begin. It is cynical to decorate a man who simultaneously supports civil war with arms deliveries.

SPIEGEL: And what would come after Somoza?

Pastora: We Sandinists are not fighting for seats in parliament or for ministries or the presidency. What we are fighting for is freedom. As soon as Somoza has gone we will support the government of the present opposition forces, provided the army will be disbanded and free and unfalsified elections guaranteed.

INTERNATIONAL MEDIATION COMMISSION LEAVING COUNTRY

PA020219Y Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0109 GMT 2 Dec 78 PA

[Excerpt] Managua, 1 Dec (LATIN)--The members of the international mediation commission who have spent almost 2 months searching unsuccessfully for an agreement between the opposition and the government to prevent bloodshed decided today to leave the country. Diplomatic sources who supplied the information said that it is not known whether they will return soon or wait to be recalled if the parties so decide.

Dominican Foreign Minister Ramon Emilio Jimenez leaves Sunday for Santo Domingo. The members of the commission were very sober today but disillusioned because neither the opposition nor the government completely accepted the plebiscite formula as proposed by the commission.

PLI ASKS FAO TO END TALKS, JOIN FSLN STRUGGLE

PA051855Y San Jose Radio Reloj in Spanish 1730 GMT 5 Dec 78 PA

[Text] The Independent Liberal Party [PLI] has asked the Broad Opposition Front [FAO] to join the Sandinist Front's struggle. A communique circulating in Nicaragua last night publicizes the PLI's request to the FAO, adding that it should end the negotiation efforts and join the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN]. PLI leader (Crisanto) Flores said that it is time to take action and break off negotiations with the mediation commission because in its latest proposals it has tended to favor Somoza's party.

FAO REJECTS MEDIATION UNTIL MINIMUM DEMANDS MET

PA060338Y Panama City ACAN in Spanish 0253 GMT 6 Dec 78 PA

[Text] Managua, 5 Dec (ACAN-EFE)--The Broad Opposition Front [FAO] agreed tonight, Tuesday, not to consider any proposal made by the international mediation commission until President Somoza's government honors a series of minimum demands.

Among the basic demands which the FAO requires be put into effect is the issuance of a government decree ending the state of seige imposed in September.

The Nicaraguan opposition is also demanding that the present government grant amnesty to political prisoners, including a pardon for convicted prisoners. In addition, the amnesty decree must provide for the definitive suspension of pending cases and freedom for Nicaraguans in asylum or in exile to return to the country.

The opposition is also demanding the prompt and effective revocation of the "Nicaraguan radio and television code" (the black code), as well as of all other measures which curtail the freedom to broadcast and disseminate (?information).

"These measures must also cover the members of the Sandinist National Liberation Front (FSLN)," the FAO has told the international mediators from the United States, the Dominican Republic and Guatemala who have been in Nicaragua since October attempting to achieve a settlement between the opposition and the government that will prevent more bloodshed in the Central American nation.

The document issued today by the Broad Opposition Front states that the Somoza government has already agreed to meet those basic demands, according to statements made by the mediation commission, and only their implementation remains.

"Unless these three minimal guarantees, which the mediation commission considers to be indispensable, are met, it would be very difficult to maintain confidence in the mediation process as an effective means of resolving the national crisis in a peaceful and civic manner," the political and labor organizations which make up the FAO have stated.

The FAO's answer to the latest proposal made by the international mediation commission on Saturday comes at a time when the mission of friendly cooperation is separated. Only William G. Bowdler, the U.S. member, is in the country. The other members of the mediation commission, Dominican Vice Adm Ramon Emilio Jimenez and Guatemalan engineer Alfredo Obiols, are absent.

In this manner, the FAO reiterated its position of rejecting further international mediation until General Somoza's government implements the aforementioned minimum demands.

The opposition will again consider whether or not to continue accepting international mediation only if the government implements the minimum demands. On Saturday the mediation commission urged the FAO and the government to sit down at the negotiating table beginning on 7 December.

According to the international mediation commission, these negotiations would be designed to establish conditions conducive to the holding of a national plebiscite which would determine whether or not Somoza would remain in power.

ACTIVITIES OF PANAMANIAN BRIGADE REPORTED

PA051456Y Panama City Radio Hogar in Spanish 1230 GMT 5 Dec 78 PA

[From the "Radioperiodico Conciencia" program by Milciades Ortiz; report from "somewhere in Nicaragua" by Antonio Graell--read by announcer]

[Text] Panamanians of the Victoriano Lorenzo brigade took the military post at Rio San Juan over the weekend, holding it for several hours with such a volume of gunfire that the government of dictator Somoza was surprised. It had never dreamed the Panamanians in the Sandinist National Liberation Front [FSLN] were up to such a feat.

Among the Panamanians who took part in this military operation in Nicaragua are those known by the pseudonyms "Sharif," "Paco," "Aguila," "Cimarron" and "Yeyo." On the other hand, Graell continues, we have received reports that in Esteli, northern Nicaragua, Sandinist commands armed with modern sophisticated weapons caused 40 casualties to the army of tyrant Somoza while the FSLN suffered only 5.

In view of Somoza's latest statements, in which he contradicts himself, the attack by the Sandinist Front is imminent. It is called the great "Q" offensive, the December operation. Although the Nicaraguan dictator has said that to be forewarned is to be forearmed, the Sandinists may give him a birthday present today on his 53d birthday.

It should be noted that the Panamanian Victoriano Lorenzo brigade has sustained no casualties except a slight wound suffered by the Panamanian called Cocle who, in a skirmish with the Nicaraguan Army, sustained a bullet wound in his right arm.

This has been a war report by Panamanian newsman Antonio Graell which the Panamanian press refused to publish.

ARMY DENIES ALLEGED INTERNATIONAL INFILTRATION

PA060248Y Paris AFP in Spanish 0208 GMT 6 Dec 78 PA

[Excerpt] Managua, 5 Dec (AFP)--The report that international forces had infiltrated into Nicaraguan territory was denied this afternoon by the army. According to this report, disseminated abroad by an international news agency, 5,000 Colombian, Venezuelan, Panamanian and Mexican fighters have joined Nicaraguan [Sandinist] forces and have infiltrated Nicaraguan territory through the Penas Blancas region.

Col Cristobal Merlo Murillo, an official army spokesman, told AFP that the Nicaraguan forces have no report of such an invasion and added that until today the country has remained peaceful, although patrols have been maintained without interruption.

NATIONAL BUDGET FOR 1979 PRESENTED TO CONGRESS

PA041522Y Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 4 Dec 78 PA

[Text] On Friday, the national government, represented by Budget Director General Robert Sequeira, presented the National Congress with the national general budget for 1979. The health, education, defense and public works sectors show significant increases despite the problems experienced by the nation's revenue because of incidents during the past months. The general budget for education contains a 10-percent increase for teachers, who are an important segment of the Nicaraguan population and whose improved economic standard will undoubtedly be reflected not only in their families but in the different activities of the nation. The increase represents an expenditure of almost 13 million cordobas from government revenues. The new budget also includes 60 million cordobas for the payment of next year's 1-month bonus and salary and personnel increases in the Public Health Ministry amounting to 2.5 million cordobas and over 26 million cordobas in preventive health services for rural and urban populations in different areas of the country.

The university will be guaranteed a 2-percent increase, as contained in the constitution, aside from other assistance, amounting to 40.5 million cordobas. The nation's budget has been estimated at 3.76 billion cordobas, a slightly higher figure than the present budget.

CASTRO SPEAKS AT 14TH CTC CONGRESS CLOSING SESSION

Report on Closing Session

FL022224 [Editorial Report FL] Havana Domestic radio/television services in Spanish at 2110 GMT on 2 December begin live coverage of closing session of the 14th Congress of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers [CTC] from the Lazaro Pena auditorium of the CTC building in Havana City.

Color television coverage opens with shots of congress participants. Behind the dais there is a picture of Lazaro Pena, a former CTC secretary general, and a slogan which reads: "To Support the Solution of Our Vital Economic Problems!" Fidel Castro arrives and takes his seat at the presiding table at 2119 GMT.

An unidentified labor leader begins reading a statement in which he recalls that Cuba today commemorates the 22d anniversary of the Revolutionary Armed Forces and Granma landing. He praises the heroic efforts of the rebel army under the leadership of Fidel Castro, which culminated with the overthrow of the tyranny and liberation of the fatherland.

He then proceeds to announce the members of the CTC Secretariat and National Committee as well as the revision and control commission chairman elected by the congress participants. Those elected are: Roberto Veiga Menendez, secretary general; Agapito Figueroa Barrera, second secretary and chairman of the revision and control commission; as members of the national secretariat, Rosario Fernandez Perera, Jesus Escandel Romero; Luis Martell Rosas, Jose Linares Valdes, Alfredo Suarez Quintela, Rene Penalver Valdes, Francisco Travieso Damas, Enrique Gutierrez Barbado, Ramon Cardona Nuevo, Francisco Linares Calvo and Constantino Hermida Moreira; and as members of the National Committee in addition to those already mentioned, Jacinto Viamontes Rodriguez, Mario Machin Tirador, Pedro Fernandez Diaz, Rene Lara Moreno, Julio Reyes Alvarez, Evaristo Baranda Pascual, Pedro Gonzalez Fernandez, Reyes Alvarez, Evaristo Baranda Pascual, Pedro Gonzalez Fernandez, Noel (Subeaur Mir), Adolfo Valdivia Dominguez, Julio Machado Tamayo, Rafael Navarrete Santana, Pedro Castillo Hernandez, Reinaldo Santana Zamora, Daniel Marrero Toribio, Rene Fontaina Alvarez, Isidoro Campos Tapanes, Manuel Cordero Aguila, Ramon Cobas Rodriguez, Antonio J. Gonzalez Rodriguez, Dimar (Isaquino) Diaz, Jorge Torres Hernandez, Felix (Bota) Napoles Tamayo, Ixart Cuenca Mastrapa, Andres Carrallosa Pena, Ricardo Martinez (Masdeu), Nemesio Garcia Sanchez and Angel Alfonso Diaz. The announcer adds that "all comrades have been unanimously elected."

After congratulating those elected, two labor delegates present gifts to Roberto Veiga and Fidel Castro. Immediately following, Roberto Veiga is introduced to read the congress's final resolution. After Veiga concludes, Fidel Castro is introduced and begins speaking at 2218 GMT.

Address by Fidel Castro

FL022323Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2218 GMT 2 Dec 78 FL

[Speech by President Fidel Castro at the closing session of the 14th Congress of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers--CTC--held at the Lazaro Pena auditorium of the CTC building on 2 December--live]

[Text] Distinguished guests, comrades of the party and government leadership, delegates to the 14th labor congress: It is not easy to make the closing remarks at an event so rich in content, ideas and results as this one. I will attempt to give my impressions. Someone said yesterday in a conversation that it seemed as if the 13th congress had been held yesterday and I said: It seems as if it were held this morning. Five years of revolutionary life of our workers and people go very fast in this congress. But in those 5 years since 1973, how many important events have taken place?

First of all, we had the first party congress in 1975; the discussion and adoption of the republic's constitution; the institutionalization; the politico-administrative division; the installation of the people's governments; the start of the implementation of the system of management and planning of the economy; and other important efforts which have forced the mass organizations to adapt themselves to all these new circumstances and have required an intense effort by our workers.

An examination of the accomplishments of the trade union movement during these 5 years was brilliantly described in the main report. In reality the progress has been impressive. I will not attempt to repeat it all, but we can cite an example in the educational field within the trade union movement. The struggle for a sixth-grade education, the struggle that began in the 13th congress; some said it was impossible to graduate one million workers from the sixth grade in this period of time. As the main report stated this is a goal that has been practically attained, that goal which was to be reached by 1980. This means that the minimum level of our workers has been raised to the sixth grade and the sixth grade education required today is not easy.

Starting from this victory our objective is reaching by 1985 the level of a ninth-grade education. Yes, I know that something has been said about half a million workers having a ninth grade education by 1985. That is your commitment, but in reality it is a modest goal. [laughter in the audience] It is modest. We agree with you in having adopted a modest goal, but in general terms we should strive for a minimum ninth-grade education by 1985. [applause]

Throughout the world a lot is said about the success Cuba achieved with the literacy drive and the fact that illiteracy had been eradicated. Nevertheless, in our judgment the easiest battle was the struggle against illiteracy. It was more spectacular, but did not take a long time. However, I believe the greatest merit should be assigned to the effort of our revolution following the literacy drive.

It will be a much greater triumph, the one we will achieve when we are able to say that the minimum [educational] level of our workers is the sixth grade. And the day that we are able to say that the minimum [educational] level of our workers has reached the ninth grade, that will be a still greater triumph. Because I am, was and will always be an optimist [applause], I dare to state that in the next congress in 1983 we will have made great progress in the battle for a ninth-grade education. We will then propose to fight for a twelfth-grade education by 1990. [applause]

Is that impossible? [crowd yells no] Was it not more difficult to reach the level our workers already have reached? It was accomplished at a time when we did not even have classrooms and practically no teachers. Will it be difficult when some 26,000, I believe it is 28,000, citizens have already received in this year their teachers' certificates in this country? This is precisely due to the effort that has been made. A few years ago, 70 percent of our primary teachers did not have a certificate. By 1980 all of them will have one. We have tens of thousands attending teacher-training schools and tens of thousands attending universities and thousands of primary teachers already training in or preparing to train as primary teachers in our universities.

The number of schools grows every year. The number of teachers increases. We have fewer students. Therefore the material possibilities and the objective and subjective factors aimed at stepping up, as much as we want, this extraordinary program of educational and technical training of our workers continue to grow. By then we will be able to show the world what a revolution of the workers represents and what socialism is. To this we can add that there are approximately 145,000 students, of whom 50 percent are workers, who have already registered at the universities. [applause]

New problems are beginning to arise, which is the number of workers who have graduated from the worker faculty at the preuniversity level and who have not been able to enter the universities. We have the dilemma of university capacities, limitations, the need to register in regular courses that enormous mass of students graduating from intermediate or superior levels at preuniversities and technological institutes. This forces us to seek new solutions, new solutions in order to avoid frustrating those desires, that enormous interest of our workers for study. We have to seek new solutions, new formulas, so that everyone who wants to attend centers of higher education is able to do so, so that they can accomplish it. If it cannot be done in regular courses, then do it in directed [dirigidos] courses. These problems were brought up with great enthusiasm by the comrades of the CTC [Central Organization of Cuban Worker] leadership in a meeting with the party. This was done to see if these situations can be reconciled. We cannot conceive of it being correct to stop a youth from continuing his studies. Thus, we have to think, aside from the number of worker-students in universities in a permanent status, about programs so that the workers may conduct directed studies, take tests and receive their degrees.

If we now have this problem of an enormous demand for more than 20,000 who have received their degrees from the worker faculty and have not been able to register at the universities, you can imagine what it will be like in 1985 when we have a minumum ninth-grade [education] and then a preuniversity minimum. No one knows how many will want to attend university studies. We believe that our society should work for cultural, intellectual, spiritual and technical enrichment of the people, without limits. So if anyone wants to have the honor--and I say honor because it is impossible to refer to it in general terms--the honor of possessing a university degree, we would like to see him have that possibility without, of course--if everybody has a university degree, everybody will have a job, like in the past, that corresponds to that degree.... [leaves thought unfinished]

I bring up this because it is important that we understand that, as long as there was an enormous scarcity of graduates from the universities, each graduate could have a job as soon as he received his degree. But the day when there are tens of thousands, hundreds of thousands and maybe millions of persons with those degrees in our society, university training will not have to be looked at as nothing more than a means, a profession. But we must know how to solve this contradiction instead of telling our workers: If you want to study you cannot do so. We must be able to say: If you want to study, we will give you the opportunity to study.

This does not imply, I repeat, that the day the situation becomes acute that all the available jobs will not correspond to those degrees. I believe you will understand this idea. Are we in agreement? [crowd responds "yes"] We are not working to make everybody physicians, engineers, devoted to medicine and engineering. The time will come, it will come, when even the assignment of a job as an engineer, any type, or physician, or professor or historian, or economist and so forth will be done in accordance with the university record. [applause] We will have to find the way to do it. But, we do not want to depend on this movement at the risk of becoming a society of intellectuals. What does a society of intellectuals really look like? No one knows that. But somebody will have to tackle those problems, the problems of the party and the state and the trade union movement and so forth in a society of intellectuals, because we are heading for a society of intellectuals.

But at the same time--this is the good part of it--it will be a society of proletarian intellectuals and a society of revolutionary intellectuals. [applause] Therefore, we are not afraid of that [situation].

However, because we have not yet reached that stage and because we still lack many technicians in many fields and even now lack university technicians, intermediate level technicians and many qualified workers, let us return to the soil to suggest that we make a special effort in giving guidance from this effort to university studies toward the basic degrees, which the country dearly needs at the present time and, above all, toward the technology faculty and, within the technology faculty, the branch of machinery construction. That is very important.

We have made various efforts and we are advancing in some fields, as in the field of training teachers and professors. The registration in agronomy engineering is growing very rapidly. The same is the case with the faculty of livestock-agriculture. The registration of students in the school of economics grows. Every year the registration at the school of medicine grows and grows. Similar success must be achieved with registrations in the school of technology. We must make constructive and organized efforts to expand these schools in our country.

The successes of the trade union movement in recent years are reflected in may aspects, such as in culture, the beginning [entertainer] movement, sports. All records reflect a great growth in all these activities. New cadres have been trained. Our national school has been in full operation. That does not include provincial schools. Courses are attended not only by our cadres but by numerous cadres from other countries, especially from Latin America. A lot has been gained in experience. A lot has been gained in organization.

But, in addition, there is something that is essential in our judgment. A lot has been gained in awareness. A lot has been gained in revolutionary spirit. One manifestation of that spirit, which is volunteer work, has been maintained, improved and enriched. There are very few things as impressive as what took place the last Red Sunday on 6 December in honor of this congress. It was November. Thanks for correcting me. It was 6 November. What is that? It was 5 November. That is correct. It was on a Sunday. Are we in agreement? It was Sunday, the first Sunday. I said there are very few things as impressive as that. To observe how our people massively moved toward work centers, toward factories. What enthusiasm. All estimates were surpassed. The 1.2 million figure was mentioned as a goal, and 1.5 million was reached. I believe that more than 2 million is closer, because everyone joined the mobilization.

It was interesting to note. I said as a joke that on that Sunday there were more workers at the factories than during the week. [applause and laughter] Perhaps the most extraordinary thing of all was that there was no absenteeism on that Sunday, despite the fact that it was volunteer work. That tradition, that spirit, which Che instilled in our country [applause] remains alive after 20 years of revolution. Comrade Veiga mentioned almost all the main topics discussed in the theses, in the congress and did not forget to point out the movement of innovators. We listened to a speech by the comrade from Guantanamo on the innovators' movement and what it represents, the same enormous importance that the youth technical brigades have.

This is what they have been contributing and what they are capable of believing. They were asking for resources and facilities, and that is correct, although naturally one cannot establish a pilot center in every factory. We will have to study which centers have the most resources and facilities in every locality and every region and see how, through those centers, we can supply the facilities which they were requesting for their work.

He made a distinction between the technician and the innovator, the one who invents. He spoke of enormous possibilities, which is the truth. We believe that this movement should receive the greatest attention and support from the administration and the state. [applause]

The 13th congress was I would say, a more difficult congress than this one. There were some tricky problems at that congress. The connection [vinculacion] between these matters was discussed, (?as it was in this one). However, we are not forgetting that some matters were discussed, such as the famous Resolution No 270, which became unsustainable. It was necessary to appeal to the spirit of our workers, to their consciences, their understanding of the problems, in order to adopt some of the measures of the 13th congress.

But the connection was the axle, the center and the formula of the socialist distribution, which has had so many repercussions in our economy. The benefits of the connection and the application of the principle corresponding to our phase of the distribution according to work, that is, the socialist distribution, are unquestionable. And on some work fronts the results have been spectacular, as in the case of the port workers. Of course it is also the result of a great effort of good organization, but the fact that productivity increased more than three times gives one the idea.

In practically all sectors there has been an increase in productivity in a proportion greater than the wage [increase], resulting in a highly positive benefit for the country's economy. It is now evident, however, that we did not take full advantage of the application of this principle. This principle must be further improved. It must continue to be deepened to overcome those aspects in which errors were committed, in which it was not applied correctly. We must not be discouraged by the difficulties in some cases. We must continue studying, continue advancing, continue perfecting it, continue obtaining the advantages of a correct application of this principle.

Agriculture was discussed here. Much was said about completed fields, of certain retrogression in the application of the practice of the completed field which was attributed to certain interests of the administration, to a certain desire to prevent the effort of the controls which are required. Some leaders told us that application of this principle in agriculture has the unavoidable consequence of greater administrative effort and greater control. Naturally, we must not retrogress in agriculture because, in reality, agriculture is one of the fields in which we must make a greater effort for productivity. The truth is, there is something which socialism cannot abolish. There is something which the revolution cannot surmount. That is work.

And we know what the situation was like in our fields. Unemployment, on the one hand, plus fierce competition between workers in search of jobs, which were relatively plentiful during the sugar harvest period but scarce during the rest of the year--this was the story of the canecutters at the time they had to start working, of the wagon drivers who had to be in the fields at 0200 to begin loading in those times when there were no forklifts or anything.

Working conditions in the fields forced agricultural workers to ensure hard, intense activity, forced them to work 12, 13, or 14 hours at an intense pace. All of these conditions changed with the revolution. Lost time disappeared, unemployment disappeared. Opportunities for all types of work appeared everywhere, and not only in agriculture. Work has humanized. The workday was reduced considerably. From 14--not to 8, because there is talk precisely of an 8-hour workday. One cannot develop agriculture if one reduces the workday from 14 to 4 or 5 hours, and does much less intense work, and has three men under socialism do the work which one man did under capitalism. This is not so, of course. This is not so. But there are cases where this is so. There are cases where this is so, but it is not so in all cases.

Naturally, man has a great ally: technology. The minute a forklift appears, force is multiplied. Man's productivity is multiplied, and then just a few men with a forklift are able to do the job that hundreds of thousands [as heard] used to do before. A few men accomplish the job of loading the cane that hundreds of thousands used to load before.

Then the sugarcane combine arrived and 1 man could do the job of 50. The combine is a magnificent piece of equipment. Then the rice combine arrived and replaced that hard, arduous task of harvesting rice by hand. Then the airplane, which sows rice or sprays herbicide. Therefore, technology is a great ally of man and allows us to humanize labor. It often allows us to multiply the productivity of labor. But it takes time to apply technology. Technology has not been developed for all activities, although it has been for many.

In our country it is already difficult to find someone to milk a cow by hand. This is difficult. All of the new dairies have milking machines. However, those who lived during capitalism's livestock era know that one had to get up very early in the morning, tie up 30 cows in a row--and they were quite skittish and rebellious--and then milk all 30 to obtain 1.5 or 2 liters of milk.

Technology was progressively introduced into our country. In the agricultural sector we could say that technology has been introduced rapidly--first the forklifts in the canefields, then the collection centers, then the combines and the other agricultural techniques. However, labor is needed. One can use technology. Technology helps labor, multiplies its productivity, humanizes it. These are the characteristics of technology. But it cannot replace labor. It can reduce its intensity, reduce physical effort, but we have to recognize that labor cannot be replaced.

Ir manual as well as in mechanized and agrochemical activities, we have to take advantage of the workday and work seriously. And it is necessary for the administration to take all necessary steps to exercise control. It is necessary for the workers and the labor unions to take all necessary steps to create this profound conscientiousness and to make demands because we should all make demands. I can imagine how difficult it is at the present time to be a section chief [jefe de lote] because the section chief is not a class enemy of the worker. He does not belong to another class. He did under capitalism. Under capitalism the owners were of another class--those who administered, directed, the section chief, and so on. They were called...I don't even know what they were called in that era. Foremen, overseers, administrators were in the service of the landowners and the proprietors. Today an administrator, the section chief, is not--does not belong to another class. He is not an enemy of the worker. He is from the workers' ranks, and he is a friend, relative or neighbor of all those who work with him. But we must ask and demand of this man that he make demands. We must ask and demand that he exercise control, that on the job he be neither neighbor, friend nor relative of the others [applause], that his job be to demand, to control.

We must be forceful and very critical of demagogy, irresponsibility, or weakness, or inefficiency--very critical. [applause] And we should be very critical of weak cadres--very critical. This does not in the least mean that making demands, fulfilling one's duty should be confused with despotism. No. With a lack of brotherhood, comradeship. No. No.

The capitalist was the owner. He was watching over everything. He had an employee there, his right-hand man, who had to watch over everything. Well then, the administrators and the administrative cadres are the right-hand men of the working class, of the workers. [applause]

Therefore, the owners, the proprietors, are our workers, and they should make demands of those who administer their wealth. You all know this. This is how demagogy works. Our working class, our labor movement, has not learned so much over the years in vain.

Economicism [economicismo] is easy. You know that. And one of the weapons of capitalism, to prevent and delay the revolution, is precisely economicism.

Economicism has caused headaches for more than one revolutionary process before the workers were able to gain an awareness of their role in society and in the revolution, in their revolution. As long as the revolution is not their revolution it is not a revolution, and as long as policy is not their policy it is not policy for the worker. He is correct in demanding all that he can demand, but when the revolution is his revolution and when policy is his policy, there is a complete change in the situation. Then he can no longer be in conflict with his own interests. The contradictions between the interests of the workers and the interests of the exploiters are legitimate, but contradictions would be absurd and impossible between the workers and their interests as workers in this identification which is produced under socialism. That is why one must be demanding. One must criticize demagogy and weakness and tell the administrator "demand of me," tell him "demand of me because that is your duty. And if you do not demand of men, you are not a good administrator." [applause]

The working class, the worker, the laborer does not need godfathers as administrators. He does not need them. There it is; this is another of the important roles of compensation [contrapartida] which the labor movement has. This subject is interesting, very interesting, especially when visitors and representatives from many other countries are present. Yes, yes. I must say in the first place that we have never had economicism problems in our revolution, never. [applause]

Since the first outbreaks, since the first moments when we became aware of this problem, in the face of certain erroneous slogans, one had to see the understanding, the clarity with which these problems were seen by our workers, and we have not had those problems of economicism in the revolutionary process. And if our labor movement is characterized by anything, it is by this high conscience which it has. This is a very interesting subject.

The workers, the laborers and the labor movement have two tasks, two tasks. The first duty of the workers in the revolution is to build socialism. That is their first duty. [applause] And anything that contributes to the building of socialism because it is their socialism, their society, their wealth. It belongs to no one else. It is their wealth, the country's, the worker's.

He has, as it has been clearly stated here, another role: of guarding the interests of the workers, the specific workers of that branch, of that center, their rights, all the prerogatives which the socialist state grants them, protecting the interests of the workers against any incomprehension, arbitrary action, injustice. He must be a defender of the interests of the workers as workers, all their problems as they have been discussed in this congress, as they have been discussed in the theses, all the legitimate and just interests of the workers in all fields and in every sense. Duties and rights of the workers, explaining them, presenting them, demanding them, defending them--this is the task of our labor movement. Of course, if someone comes from a capitalist country ... and the capitalists want to campaign against the labor movement in socialism and they pretend to present it as an appendage of the administration. That is what the ideologists and propagandist liars of capitalism invent. But one must not be discouraged by this. We tell this to the representatives of the labor movement who come from the capitalist countries. What happens is that in socialism there occurs the miraculous identity and identification of interests between the workers and the interests of all the people, who are naturally working people. [applause]

There occurs the fabulous social miracle in which the working people for the first time become the owners of their work, owners of the country's wealth. And that is why we have this picture in the socialist society and why we have this labor movement. This labor movement would be the ideal of a capitalist, the ideal, naturally, a labor movement speaking about production and of increasing productivity and of improving quality and promoting culture, but also a labor movement incessantly speaking of increasing the wealth.

That is what a capitalist would like, but it does not enter the mind of a capitalist because to a capitalist the union is the devil reborn. [laughter and applause]

Who speaks of strikes in a revolutionary process, in a socialist process? Under capitalism there is nothing but talk of strikes, strikes at any hour, strikes everyday. Everyday something is idle under capitalism. One day the television stations are idle, the next day it is the air controllers creating catastrophes, creating chaos in the world because the air controllers are on strike. Another time it is New York, which was left I know not how many weeks without newspapers because they were on strike in New York. The most normal thing in the capitalist society is this chaos and disorder, and it is logical. It is logical due to the contradiction which exists between the worker and the capitalist.

We, the revolutionary rulers--I am not referring to others, just to us alone because there are many revolutionary and socialist rulers in the world, and I cannot say something here which might allude to others--we can self-criticize. We can criticize ourselves, but not others, because then it would not be self-criticism but criticism. [laughter]

We, we are the ones who are inefficient, inefficient. The inefficiency is in us, the administrators, the leaders. We could do things much better, but we do not. We could be much more efficient but are not. If we have the cooperation to promote the economy, to promote the work, to promote everything--which a capitalist never has--and having all these advantages, although we are advancing--no one will deny that we are advancing and advancing a great deal. We are nevertheless absolutely convinced that we are working under optimum conditions, from the human viewpoint, from the subjective viewpoint, from the viewpoint of the worker, who is the creator of the wealth. We may have other problems--underdevelopment, blockage, many other things--but the contribution, the effort, the cooperation which the worker offers for everything--no other society in the world has had it. No leader in the world has had it. No capitalist has had it, never.

Ah, but a capitalist is like a wild beast defending his factory, defending raw materials, defending costs, defending everything, based on a ferocious contradiction with the worker, defending his interests as a capitalist with the help of everyone: the army, the police, the judges, parliament, the press, everything, in the service of those interests. He is a wild beast, and he is efficient. We cannot deny that the capitalist administering his factory wants everything efficient.

What must we ask of the socialist administrator? We must ask him to be more efficient than the capitalist, more efficient, as a rule. Not because he is a proprietor, because he is not the proprietor of any factory, but because he is administering a factory of the workers; he is administering a factory of the people. If it is a thermoelectric central, a truck, or a bus, it does not belong to any transnational or multinational transportation company. Nor is he defending any foreign mine or factory, or sugar central. And precisely because the workers understand this and see it so clearly, one goes to a factory and finds the workers tremendously interested in production, fond of the factory, full of love and in high spirits to do whatever is necessary. This means that the workers, in their role as workers, are seeing this much more clearly than the administrators, who are from the working class--because they are from the working class [applause]--in their role as administrators. Not that I want to criticize them gratuitiously, but I have seen this.

Additionally, where did our administrative cadres come from? As a general rule they did not come from the bourgeoisie. They came mainly from the ranks of the workers. They had no experience, very little technical knowledge.

But the cadres have been developing. One has to admit that these opinions cannot be generalized. I refer to a certain attitude. I am speaking, meditating a bit on the attitude with which each person should do his work, the attitude with which the workers should work, those who are directly involved in production, and the attitude with which those who are in the administration should work, because I am certain that if we were more efficient we would take optimum advantage of the extraordinary subjective factors that exist in a socialist process in favor of production.

I believe we have a magnificent labor union movement. Of course, it should continue improving, perfecting itself, but it is a magnificent labor union movement. We can say that our revolutionary process can feel truly satisfied with the role that our workers and our labor union movement are playing. [applause] Let no one think that the labor union movement is an appendage of the administration. Let no one think so. And, looking at this closely, nor should we speak of appendages but should say, in all fairness, that the socialist administration, the socialist state, is an instrument of our workers. [applause]

In our country the administration is an instrument of our workers, of our working class and its political and labor union organizations. That is what can be said. In any capitalist country it is difficult, very difficult, absolutely impossible, for the workers to discuss as they do in our labor unions, for them to participate as they do in our labor unions, in a word, because in a capitalist society they have no participation whatsoever. Here they participate in all sectors--in directing the state, in the party, everywhere. In the state's executive body and, what is more important, in the executive committee of the Council of Ministers, at all their meetings the leader of the Cuban labor union movement is present and participates. [applause] He is present to coordinate constantly and propose and remind them of the general and specific interests of our workers.

We are very happy with our congress and with the large attendance by representatives of the international labor union movement, representatives of brother workers of the socialist countries, and representatives of the brother workers of Latin American and African countries and those of the so-called Third World in general. We are very happy, very satisfied [applause] that they have been able to witness the development of this congress. And I would like to point out that one of its characteristics was the broad democratic spirit and the spirit of criticism and self-criticism. Starting with the rank-and-file when preparations began 1 year ago for the congress, using fully democratic methods, the delegates have discussed with utmost freedom as much as they have wanted, any subject that they wanted to discuss.

They have elected their leaders. We feel that they have chosen them very well. There were votes...some of the most outstanding and valuable leaders of our labor union movement had a few votes cast against them. I remember that when the number of votes were being read there was even some murmuring, and I said: very good, very good. First, because the right to vote against someone is one of the most sacred rights of any delegate. [applause] Let's begin by respecting this, by feeling satisfaction over this. Second, because the work of a director is a difficult and complex task, a hard job. And the positions of leaders often conflict. Regarding opinions, there may be cases where they did not agree with a comrade who was certain that he was right, who felt that an injustice had been done. Regarding promotions, nonpromotions and demotions, all of this might occur.

And then, of course, we have to ask and insist that the leaders make demands. There should not, there cannot be, weak leaders. [applause] There should not be any leaders who avoid confrontations. There should not be any leaders who avoid problems.

No leader should be thinking of the congress. No leader should be concerned if he has worked conscientiously, responsibly, seriously, and honestly. He should not be concerned over the votes cast against him. Naturally, the criteria of the immense majority of our workers are revolutionary, just criteria. Above all, they are just, and they evaluate. And we expect our workers to be demanding of their leaders. If demands are made of them, let them demand in return. Let every men's labor be given the value it deserves, because men, as men, can make mistakes. This is to be expected. In fact, it is quite common. But the important thing is being upright, the purity of one's principles, being honest. Then, of course, the leader's role if not only to direct of make demands but also to be **understanding**, to help, to teach. Above all, we should demand that the leader be honest and that he should avoid politicking or demagogy of any kind. But then, in reality this kind of leader cannot exist in our country because the masses would reject them, because our masses are allergic to demogogy and dishonesty. [applause]

We are personally familiar with the work of many of these leaders that you have elected. The electoral process in our country is a complex and rigorous process. First of all because in our country no one aspires, no one can aspire. This is unknown in socialism, an individual aspiring to fill a post. In the revolution this is inconceivable. An individual running for a post, hanging up a poster stating 'vote for ugly joe','vote for so-and-so.' [laughter] That does not exist in the workers movement and you all know how candidates are nominated to the popular power. What brings attention to a cadre is his policies, his conduct, his work, and the people's, the masses' and the workers' opinion. For the time being here no one aspires.

It must be taken into account that our labor movement experienced a harsh, very harsh blow just after the 13th congress. That was the death of Comrade Lazaro Pena. [applause] We all remember the pain with which our people and especially lur workers received that tragedy, that irreparable loss. How difficult it was to find a cadre to replace Comrade Lazaro Pena. Under those circumstances of the concern of all of us, the party's decision, it was not we who handpicked or chose a cadre. We met with the labor movement directors in a completely free fashion and we asked them to assess the matter for hours until they reached almost unanimous views to nominate and elect a comrade to replace Lazaro Pena. The movement's directors thought and meditated carefully and chose Comrade Veiga. [applause]

I think that one of Comrade Veiga's greatest accomplishments was to have assumed such a difficult task, vitually impossible for a young cadre from the labor movement to replace, or occupy the office that Lazaro Pena had filled. And we have seen him and the leadership work collectively during these years, making a really enormous effort without the authority, without the experience, without the universal recognition that Comrade Lazaro Pena enjoyed. Despite these difficult, adverse circumstances they have done an extraordinary job and we know them because we are in contact with them, because they participate in the highest level state meetings, because we have seen these comrades work. We have observed their conduct, their concern, their honesty and their firmness. Whenever a problem concerning workers, affecting workers has been discussed, they have known how to respond perfectly to their dual responsibilities as national leaders, state leaders, party leaders and labor leaders. Without ever ignoring the general general interests of the revolution, their basic mission in the directorate and party and their role has been to be attentive to every detail and everything that concerns the workers directly. We are witnesses to that. That is why we congratulate the congress delegates and we congratulate the National Council for their election of the secretariat and the National Committee. [applause]

During the congress various problems have been brought up throughout the process by various work centers, by various people. Some of those problems were discussed here.

For instance, women's difficulties were broached. This is a problem that has been discussed--I remember well--especially since those production assemblies that were held after 1970. In many places the Saturday issue was vigorously discussed and after studying this issue we have always reached the conclusion--especially in the processes in which a large number of women participated--that it would be impossible to adopt a measure to eliminate Saturday [work] and reduce the women's workweek to 5 days. We reached this conclusion [murmuring among crowd] just in case. [as heard]

We reached this conclusion. In many industries this could not be resolved. Other initiatives and other proposals arose because the proposal did not come from the women's desire to seek any kind of privilege. It stemmed from problems that they had at home and especially from the problems that they had with their children. These problems have come up regarding vacations as well. We know that many labor centers are filled with children during vacations because they do not go to school and their mothers take them to work centers. That is why vacation programs have been outlined. To help with these problems of working mothers a large effort has been made and is being made with the care centers.[circulos] by constructing care centers. But I remember that one of the things that was most discussed was why schools or half-day boarding schools [semi internados] did not operate on Saturdays. This has always been discussed and if it does not seem possible to reduce the work week, let us analyze this stage and this situation. We have to try to find solutions to this problem.

Teachers, as you know, had a very intensive program and this can be seen during the teachers' assembly meetings. When the light industry assembly meeting was held you heard some proposals and when teachers' assemblies were held, other proposals were made. They complained that they were virtually going berserk between their meetings, their various obligations at school, the union, occasionally the party, the youth, the FMC [Federation of Cuban Women], the CDR's [Committees for the Defense of the Revolution], in addition to the education programs. The teachers were all going to go berserk. They had to be trained and during these years they have made a great effort to get their diplomas. But Comrade Fernandez was telling me that they are partially at fault because this problem has not been solved. They probably were analyzing, analyzing for the future. He said that in 1980, not in 1979--he did not say what month--the Education Ministry would be able to open elementary schools on Saturday. [applause]

You applaud but I am certain that if this were a Pioneers' meeting, there would not be much applause. [laughter] Therefore, at least this news, how we are going to solve it, I think has to be well thought out--whether or not it is convenient to hold school--but at least there is hope of finding a solution to this problem of the difficulties which mothers have with their children on Saturdays which has been broached so many times.

Matters related to the care center are also discussed. They are broached in such a way that we think we should strive to see what things can and should be done to respond to the very just concern which the working mothers so often voice regarding these matters. Those who say that they have three shifts have to work various shifts and the possibility of the night care center and the center at such a time. [sentence as heard] In all, I think it is our duty to find some solution to this problem because the socialist state cannot be incapable of finding some kind of solution to this oft-repeated problem of working mothers.

Vacation time problems were discussed here. We cannot realistically promise that vacation facilities will largely increase. I think this tragedy of the vacations will be with us for a long time, perhaps all of our lives, and notice that I am optimistic. I have already said that, because there are some conceptual problems.

We have been analyzing this. It is not a matter that the vacation centers have lost facilities which, in fact, they have, because those facilities are being used for international tourism. There has been some loss. It can be debated whether it is more convenient to have more facilities to receive more foreign exchange from tourism. We do not like tourism. We do not really like it. Tourism is merely an economic need of the revolution.

We are not as we have said on other occasions, an oil-producing country. We cannot make profits easily. One of our natural resources is the sea, the weather, the sun, the moon, the palm trees, and so forth. These are natural resources of our country and we have to take advantage of them, even if we do not like tourism. We say: Well, what? Is tourism going to corrupt us? And we say: Are we so small and so defenseless that it is going to corrupt us? [cries from audience: No] And I ask workers if something is going to corrupt us [cries from audience: No] And if we are not strong enough [cries from audience: Yes]. We think we are and we can receive tourists and anybody else, receive anybody else here. I say this because it is on the discussion table whether we receive some people from [words obscured by applause]

What I want to say is, let us start with a principle. Let us start by saying that the revolution has a policy, a firm and revolutionary policy. Besides that, the revolution acts along with the masses, placing its infinite, absolute and total confidence in the masses. That is why we said some of these things about tourism itself. A revolution that is going to be 20 years old, strong, solid, indestructible, which has been able not only to defend itself victoriously and overwhelmingly, but also has been able to help other revolutions defend themselves. [applause]

We are not going to live in complete isolation [asepsia] and so we say: O.K., we must welcome tourists. Well, we are going to receive tourists and we hope to develop this source of income. A gold mine would be much better. It would be much better to find one of the hills of Pinar del Rio which instead of limestone is pure, solid gold. [laughter] We say, well, it does not matter, we are not going to use the sun or the moon or the stars or the beaches or the white sands of Varadero, so on and so forth. No? Well, no. But we have to be realistic and know the facts and that is why we are going to receive tourists. Are tourists going to influence us? It could be the other way around. The other way around, gentlemen. Whoever is right [applause] Whoever is right, whoever is ideologically and politically strong, whoever is revolutionarily secure [applause] can receive anybody. And it is difficult, it is difficult at least for now throughout this entire hemisphere and in a large part of the world, to find a nation with so much self confidence as the Cuban people. Going back to the subject of vacations, we said that some things [cosas] happened, some things happened. They were so few that it would be better that they had not happened and had been preserved. [sentence as heard]

Actually, the first constructions that the revolution built for tourism were not built for international tourists but for national tourism. The hotels that were built were for the people. The tourist centers were for the people. There were not made.... [Castro leaves thought unfinished] The need to develop international tourism emerged later. A big hotel construction program for national or international tourism has not been planned.

Perhaps an accelerated development of international tourism [changes thought]...we have yet to see. Perhaps many people want to come here. Of course, whoever comes here knows that he is not coming to see casinos or brothels or things of that sort or to climb Marti's statue or anything like that. [applause] (?No, sir), no drugs or gambling or prostitution or anything like that, of course, but perhaps there will be a need to build a certain number of hotels quickly.

Based on our economic situation we should give precedence to investments in international tourism rather than national tourism. We have to continue thinking about what the socialist solution to the vacation problem is as this becomes a right and a possibility of all the people because if we continue with the previous criterion that one can go to the beach only in July and August--and all workers and all families want to go to the beach only in July and August because it also coincides with vacation time--it will be impossible to ever resolve the the vacation issue with these [as heard] criteria.

We have to take advantage of the installations on hand all year round. There can be no other way because, otherwise, for everyone to go with their children in August would require that a New York City be built in Cuba. It would require building on the beaches--and I do not know what beaches, because we do not have that many and they are not that big--building the City of New York outside the city for vacation purposes, not to live in. And we have to build the City of New York. Yes we have to build it in the next few years; that is to say, practically as many houses as there are in New York but to live in, not for vacation plans--one must be realistic--to live in those houses, not for vacation plans. [applause]

We have to delve further into how our urban affairs must develop, whether the school pool programs can also serve adults as they have begun to do in Santiago de Cuba and some cities in the interior. We have to see how to solve amusement and recreation [problems] and even how to use facilities all year round and how we can make life more enjoyable without having to think of the impossible and mad, absurd longing to build New York in Varadero or any other place, any other little beach like Aguanabor or somewhere else. This is the problem we have to think about.

Of course we have to stop the loss of housing resources, even study how the hotels that we build for international tourism can be used for national tourism--that is, for workers' leisure--as far as possible. I say as far as possible because the perfect and ideal thing that we would all like most from a humanitarian standpoint is not within this country's reach, such as making vacations available to everybody and making them cheap and all that, because each one of these problems is tied in with another problem. Then we have money left over. [sentence as heard] No money is collected. We fall into an excess of currency. We have to analyze this whole problem. It is not a question of being able to do something which nobody wants to do. But this is what has to be considered and you have to think about it. A commission has been created precisely for this. When this problem was brought up the political bureau creaced a commission to study this. Well, we are going to study it, find ways, answers, at least clear, logical answers as to what to do, how we are going to do it, what possibilities exist. But I am telling you the truth, I am telling you the truth. If we have a certain number of facilities at the hotels which we are building for national [as heard] tourism, with the hope of using them in July and August for national tourism, and there is a sudden flood of international tourists and the country needs this resource, we would have to give preference to international tourism. We would have to do this. [applause]

Vacations are enjoyable and necessary. Precisely another problem that has been discussed is the matter of unpaid vacations. The problem exists. The political bureau discussed this problem when we were discussing the social security bill. Well, we owe 110 million pesos in vacation time, some 110 million pesos in vacation time that have not been used. They [presumably the workers] continued working, they continued with the production process. Well, this is not the object of vacations. I think that one of the first things we have to do is solve this problem. Some assemblies, some work centers, said that these unpaid vacations should be paid at the end, when retirement comes around or something like that, because some are owed about 6 years or [changes sentence]... I do not know how much.

I honestly said I did not know we were stealing from workers. I did not know it because I believe that if someone has a vacation and does not take it, he works that month and gets paid the same amount that he was going to be paid if he took his vacation, then we are stealing from him. That is the truth.

We could not suddenly say: Well, take this 10 million [not further explained] out because it is not convenient to solve this abruptly, unthinkingly. Though it is a theft I say, technically, it is a theft--no one had the intention of stealing but they have ended up stealing that vacation. This is one of the first things to be solved, to achieve. Only under very exceptional, very justified circumstances implement the principle: Look, do not take your vacation now, but take it later. Insure that everyone takes his vacation, if not in Varadero, then at home or in the park or at the movies or at Lenin Park or walking down one of Havana's avenues or by the levee, [laughter] but let us begin to insure that everybody takes his rest. This is the first thing.

We would then be having illusions if we think that everybody picks those two months and then the rest of the year many of those facilities are empty. Can we solve the problem this way? Would it not be better to be realistic, to think? I was saying this: If we have to give preference to the foreigner, we will do it, although we would prefer to have a worker or a conscientious laborer there. That is what we would like most but there are other problems which take priority. We prefer that this worker have medicine when he needs it; that he have the best medical treatment when he needs it; that he have the best specialist when he needs it. We prefer that his children have all this care. [applause]

We prefer that this worker's children eat, that they drink milk, that they receive a good education, that they prepare for the world of tomorrow. We prefer that this family have security, employment; that is to say, there are things which have priority in which we have to invest this country's foreign exchange and resources because when we receive $1 million or $20 million, that goes directly to the country's economy, to the country's development, to pay for a new factory, to solve transportation or other problems such as spare parts and so on and so forth. And that is why we have to be realistic. Then, it is impossible. Some things cannot be thought of. I think we have to develop a concept, a concept of how vacations should be in our circumstances, vacations under socialism in a small country which has almost 10 million inhabitants.

I was explaining to some people that we have as many inhabitants per sq km as China. Historically, it has been said that China is an overpopulated country. Well, if China is overpopulated, so are we, because we have more or less the same number of inhabitants per sq km.

I cited another example: When we export 7 million tons of sugar extracted from our fields, despite the density per sq km, it is just as if China were exporting 700 million tons of food. I do not really know what China exports, but I doubt that they export 7 [as heard] million tons of food. I doubt it. However, in other words, we in our small country, our people, extract from our land food to export in considerable amounts per capita.

These are the current realities. Just imagine if we were to continue with the old capitalist concept of how to spend our vacations. That cannot be. We have to meditate on this. This problem is of the type that one has to analyze thoroughly and for which a solution has got to be found. I do not have such a solution myself but I do believe that we have to think about it. We also have to at least educate ourselves concerning the facts so that it will not seem that it is because of somebody's ill will that hotel rooms cannot be found during the month of August.

The problem is whether to charge more or less. Well, we agree that vacation plans should not cost much, but if we gave everybody inexpensive vacations, I do not know where the money for that would come from. Really, I do not know.

The issue of the traditional salary [salario historico] was also brought up. I see that that was discussed here. Some, because of their long service, have a different viewpoint. In general, the opinion is that the traditional salary issue has given us so many headaches and has created so many inequities that it has even forced us to the National Assembly law [as heard]. It is for this reason that we should firmly and conscientiously struggle against the creation of a new traditional salary. This has been a long battle. If we start going back on this we will never win this battle and the chaos that the traditional salary represented will continue. Remember that the traditional salary issue was discussed in a more drastic way right here during the 13th congress. There was talk about making it disappear, but nobody has made those salaries already in existence disappear because we know how hard it is, how hard it is. We would be creating other problems. Let them be improved, be qualified and so forth. But we got to the point where we resigned ourselves to this principle: Do not create any new traditional salaries. I am telling you this. And we began to implement this policy everywhere. Within the party, in the party's directorate, when discussing a cadre, [we would say]: We need this cadre for this or that; he is very good for this or that but, oh, he has a salary of this much and it is higher than he would earn here. And we would say: Well we shall do without this cadre; we will not bring him over. When the difference is not too big, we dare propose it to the cadre in question. We tell him: Listen, you are going to earn a little bit less but here is some specific job. But when the difference is marked, we do not even dare propose it because perhaps the man will come, but the man comes and goes. He has a traditional salary. His traditional salary is relatively high. And this man comes to work within the party and after 1, 2, 3 or 5 months we have reduced his salary by half. He has very probably acquired commitments with some aunt, grandmother or great aunt and all those commitments one sometimes acquires. Then all of a sudden you cut [his salary] by half and you either make him go crazy or commit suicide. [laughter]

We ourselves within the party have been inflexible--not a single case. I think this is what all organizations and everybody should do--implement the law and implement the traditional salary principle in strict fashion in order to prevent the cration of new traditional salaries. There is no other way of winning this battle and we should not let this problem defeat us.

There was talk here about the measures pending from the 13th congress, of which there were several: the issue of the revision of qualifiers [calificadores], the adjustment of pay under abnormal conditions. It is true that it has not been possible to implement some of the ideas of the 13th congress. Veiga explained in the central report that this meant an extra 300 million in wages per year. Well, over a period of 10 years this amounts to 3 billion. There had already been a salary increase that exceeded that which had been estimated in the work-salary relationship [vinculacion]. The work-salary relationship has not always resulted in the expected amount. These problems have been explained, and we have been cautious in connection with this.

The problem of category one and two in the area of agriculture still exists. Some of these problems are still pending. We know this and we are aware of these problems.

The wage problem is one that has to be handled very carefully because any isolated measure always results in unforseen repercussions. We know this because we have made mistakes. We have gone on occasion to a given place in a very important given area. We have raised the minimum salary to solve the problem and instead what we have done is make the problem worse.

For example, we raised the salary of university professors because we are interested in improving the universities, in obtaining professors and so forth. We are aware of the implications this measure had: Now everybody wants to be a professor at the university; many do. Those working for JUCEPLAN [Central Planning Board] make less but we need economists there too.

We recently discussed this matter with an arbitration board. As the board saw it, we were going to need the Supreme Court or something at that level to solve the problem. We were under the obligation of giving high salaries because someone was a university professor and we needed him at an important social research institute and the salaries at the institute are different. So we had no way of solving the problem because if we ask an individual to leave the university to go to the institute, we would be cutting his salary.

We have to study the salary problem together and very carefully. It would be easy to say yes, of course, with pleasure, we would gladly raise the salaries of all the groups. There are problems. Whenever I visit factories I am told about them. It happens that no one wants to be a lathe operator's aide, and the lathe operator, who is a skilled worker, has to go around carrying all sorts of loads because no one wants to work for the salary of an operator's aide. This type of problem has to be studied. They must be solved but in a rational way and in line with our resources. When dealing with salary problems, corrective measures should not be isolated. Let us see if we are at least able to make salaries function in the agricultural sector. I know that some of the jobs in the agriculture sector are soft. I have seen places where the pace is hard but there are jobs that are not hard. There are some jobs where everything has been made easy, working hours, the pace, everything was made softer.

So let us see. We cannot make promises. This situation was vigorously presented during the agricultural workers congress. We are not going to make promises. We are going to study the problem without making any promises. It would not be honest to make any type of promise during this closing ceremony. Promises could result in things that cannot be carried out and that would entail financial burdens that will create other types of problems. We do promise to study this concern of some workers.

Policies on special payments for persons working under abnormal conditions are being applied. This is one of the responsibilities of the state, to solve labor and employment problems in various jobs. There are jobs that are more difficult than others. There is no question about that. The state needs some resources to be able to pay adequate salaries to alleviate labor and employment problems in some jobs.

Yesterday we spoke about the housing problem, the microbrigades issues. You already know about this, but since this ceremony is being broadcast to the nation and since there are thousands of microbrigade workers who are concerned with this problem, I am going to repeat some of the statements that were made yesterday. To find a solution to the housing problem we must have, first of all, a very large housing program. It has been estimated that we have to build 100,000 every year. We have talked about this goal more than once. We have not reached it yet. There is a program that considers building 50,000 houses by 1980. This is a hard program but we have been developing the material basis for reaching this goal. We are nearing the completion of two cement factories and so forth. We are adopting every measure to be able to fulfill this program. We expect to continue increasing the housing construction program until 1985, when we should be hitting the 100,000 level. A great effort will be needed to build these 100,000 houses every year, and even with this 1985 level of 100,000, we will only have satisfied 85 percent of our housing needs by the year 2000. This is a serious problem that will take much time to solve, even making great efforts. We have approximately 25,000 microbrigade workers. They are building approximately 20,000 houses every year. We have considered the pre-fab method in the housing construction program.

We have also considered the distribution procedure, which envisages the construction of houses by state workers. In building houses with state workers we can assign homes to any worker--even if he does not live in an area with a microbrigade--such as teachers, health workers and so forth who practically do not have any chance to get a home otherwise.

Here we have two situations: payment to the work centers--not to work centers but to the constructions of the microbrigade workers. [sentence as heard]

We have said on several occasions that investments have to be so big to solve the housing problem that this program must be reviewed on an economic basis. The construction of 100,000 houses every year represents an investment of 1 billion pesos per year. The country cannot spend 1 billion pesos every year and get practically nothing in return from housing. We have proposed to respect the present system. All those who obtained their homes through the urban reform, let them enjoy them as long as they need them. He who obtained his home on a percentage basis, let him keep it that way. However, at a given moment--it could be in 1980 or 1981--as this housing construction program is increased, we have to change the payment system concerning the new houses to be delivered. I am not talking about the houses that have already been distributed. I am not talking about the homes that families are already enjoying. I am talking about the new houses. Payment should be established on a square meter basis and not on the basis of a percentage of the salary of the head of a family, as is the case with the microbrigades. We are not to apply that system because those payments amount to nothing.

To tell the truth, not even in 40 years does it amortize the cost of the materials for that house, what the house has cost. Neither the country nor you, the workers, or your workers' income can invest 1 billion per year in order to collect 20 or 30 million or even 15 million for these houses. Amortization payments must be made on these houses. We may set a 12-, 15-or 20-year amortization period, whichever is decided, but in such a way that the payment of rent per sq m amortizes that house, amortizes the investment over a certain number of years. This is what we are proposing.

Of course, since we began with the microbrigade, it was believed that it was with plus-work [plus trabajo]. But as I said yesterday, you all know well that many centers were built [hechos] with plus-work, others because they [presumably workers] were in excess. What they had was plus workers, not plus-work. [laughter] That is number one.

Then, although it has been said that the microbrigades were working too much, they have shown a phenomenal spirit and they constitute one of the country's most constructive forces. Well, afterward, when it became necessary to organize a microbrigade for every important work center, there were not enough materials for all microbrigades and they had to reduce the time [presumably of work] but they have helped with industrial and social works, and with everything. It was initially suggested that the microbrigades be turned into state brigades. Naturally, this posed a serious problem when it came to having the same system of construction, distribution and collection. This, of course, caused great concern among microbrigade workers. If the decision had really been made at the congress to turn the microbrigades into state brigades, we would have run the risk of losing a large part of that force because the microbrigade workers are interested in preserving their connection with their work centers. Many of them already earn better wages in the construction area than rather because they have become qualified workers. Others will charge the same wage for construction work that they earn at their centers. So we were faced with these problems. We analyzed and thoroughly studied this issue.

Regarding the microbrigades we have reached the following conclusion: In the event a microbrigade is turned into a state brigade because it is needed for some specific project, it will continue to be connected with its work center and will not be affected economically so long as the workers remain at the construction site. If a worker remains at the construction [site], he will not be affected economically. What is inevitable is that payment be made for each construction. It cannot be any other way because, otherwise, it would clash with the economy's system of direction and planning. So payments have to be made per construction. And in the future--once a formula is established for the payment of rent in the new houses handed out--that rent paid must be the same for all workers, regardless of whether the house was built by a state brigade or by a microbrigade.

During the discussion of this problem it was mentioned that the suppression of the microbrigades constituted a matter of concern not only for microbrigade workers but also for the centers at which they worked because the factories receive a number of houses. So we have thought that a different formula can be drafted, establishing the principles that payment be made per construction and that the rent paid by whoever receives the house be the same, using the same system whether the house was built by the microbrigades or the state brigades; establishing that workers should not be affected economically--we have also explained how we did this without violating the traditional salary principle--and establishing that the microbrigades' connections with their work centers can be maintained. These are the ideas we have.

However, we believe that in order to preserve the tranquillity of those work centers at which these microbrigades have worked, it would be possible to allocate a certain percentage of the constructions made during the year to the work centers. We must carefully study the way in which to distribute the other houses built--which may amount to 50,000, 80,000 or 100,000. And we believe that the best way is precisely through the work center because an official assigned to the unpleasant task of distributing houses runs the risk of making a good number of enemies for himself and of eliciting the suspicion that he is granting privileges.

There are protests even when the collective [colectivo] at the work center distributes the houses. There are workers who do not feel satisfied and who believe that the collective was unfair and made a mistake. But then it is not the same thing when a factory's entire collective makes a mistake and when an official of the (?government) is the one distributing the houses. [applause]

We believe that the central state and the people's government should always have a reserve of houses in order to resolve problems because there is the case of [word indistinct] people to whom houses must be given. There are cases of (?disaster), cases of families that must be moved because a factory must be expanded, another construction must be made or whatever. The state powers should receive a number of houses, a percentage of the houses built--which need not be very high--in order to be able to resolve this type of problem.

Also, in the case of new industries, like Moa [nickel industry], houses are built for those who are going to be working there. We believe that in general, and except in those cases where a few of the houses would be centralized, the ideal distribution method should call for the distribution of houses through the work centers. This is why we would not have any objections if a number of those houses currently under construction by the microbrigades--be they 15,000, 20,000, 80,000 or 100,000--were distributed through the work centers so that there will be no anxiety among the workers of those centers who have been benefitting from the microbrigades' work.

Therefore, as much as possible, we shall seek a wise solution to this problem so that it will not create anxiety or lead to desertions from the microbrigade forces, which are among the construction industry's most important forces.

I wish to stress--I would really not like to extend myself much more, as I think I have spoken at length and we are at the closing of this congress--but I do wish to stress the fact that whenever an appeal has been made to the workers there has always been an immediate and revolutionary response at all times, from the beginning of the revolution to this day, and increasingly so. I remember when we held all those production assemblies at all unions after the difficulties of 1970 and I remember the results of those meetings, the workers' response, the advances made since then. I remember last year during the past sugarcane harvest, when we had a very difficult weather situation and a huge amount of sugarcane. A special and extraordinary effort was needed. The agricultural workers, the sugar workers, the transportation workers were all asked to make that effort and our sugarcane harvest exceeded 7.3 million tons of base 96 sugar. We achieved the second most important sugarcane harvest in the country's history or the second largest sugarcane harvest in the country's history in the midst of the worst weather conditions.

Then there was the time that an appeal was made to port workers in order to resolve the problems of the ports and the demurrage, or when an appeal has been made to the construction workers. During the first half of this year we visited a number of works. At many of these, the possibility of advancing the program was studied. The program was advanced by as much as 1 year at several of them, among these the Santa Clara textile factory, which was scheduled to be concluded in late 1980 but which will be finished in late 1979 instead. The possibility of advancing Las Tunas bottle factory was discussed. The possibility of advancing the Regla wheat mill by 1 year as well as several other important projects was also discussed. The workers immediately and enthusiastically responded. We have to say that some of the works have been completed already according to schedule. Others are well underway. You are aware of the commitment of the construction workers toward priority endeavors.

We have mentioned the problem of the KTP-1 [Soviet-manufactured sugarcane harvester model number] spare part in this phase. This is also a serious problem. We have obtained an immediate answer from the mechanical industry workers.

We also recall the efforts that workers in many centers have carried out, their efficiency, the savings in raw materials in response to a meeting of the Committees for the Defense of the Revolution where we noted the difficulties we would have and the need for savings. There has not been hardly one single occasion on which the workers have not had an enthusiastic and immediate answer to the appeals of the revolution.

Now we appeal to the iron and steel mechanical workers to give a push to the production of parts and spare parts, to prepare a large number of skilled workers for the mechanical industry, to see if we can get out of the spare parts agony for good. This problem blocks our transportation services, our buses, our construction equipment, everything. Spare parts are very expensive. The cost in foreign exchange, the need for spare parts that we sometimes have, even for equipment received from the socialist field, all this obligates us to make an effort and we are going to do it. We are going to do it.

We have the will to give the mechanical industry involved in the production of parts whatever help is necessary so that we will not only have all the parts we need, but so that we may even become exporters of spare parts, exporters. Let us see how we can get out of this predicament. It happens that in the construction of a part the raw material cost is 10 percent of the value of the finished product. We have to spend only that 10 percent and buy the raw material to build the parts here. For this we need qualified and skilled workers. We are working on this with the comrades from the labor movement and from the iron and steel and mechanical industries.

This congress has had this watchword: To favor the solution of our vital economic problems.

As comrade Veiga said, the congress has put an emphasis upon its support for what we have proposed as the only reasonable thing we should do. We have to concentrate our efforts and our minds on development. We have to think more about development than about consumption. The country must overcome difficult obstacles, especially in the foreign exchange field. We have to increase our exports in this area, [and] in the socialist area also, of course. We have to increase our exports. This is what we were telling the National Assembly. If we have new cement factories and do not use it all, then we could export cement. If we do not use all our textile production, then we can export it because those factories can generate foreign exchange. We have proposed the goal of exporting one meter of fabric for each three meters we produce so that we can pay for the raw material and for the fuel we need.

We have to create an exporter's mentality. Our mentality is that of an importer. We have to think more about development than about consumption. This is the task, the mission. This is the most sacred duty of this generation of workers: to consecrate ourselves to the development of the country.

This does not mean that we are not going to improve our situation nor that it will remain stagnant. We have undoubtedly made improvements. They have been modest but they have been steady and in many fields and we will continue improving. But the important thing we must have in mind, what we must understand, is that the efforts of this generation must be dedicated to development. This must be our attitude. [applause] Other generations will live better. Of course, this generation also lives better than the previous one. [applause]

We all would like to be born in the year 1995 or in the year 2000. Who knows? We could say that those who will be born later will be better off. Yes, they will be better off and this should make us happy. [applause]

Many of our fellow countrymen who were born at the beginning of this century, many of those workers who had to suffer calamities, oppression, humiliation, abuses and injustices from capitalism would have wished to have been born now. Our children of today do not suffer misery, do not go naked, do not have to beg, are not unprotected and do not have to face the constant threat of death from illnesses for lack of medicine. Our children are much better off today than they were in the 1930's, the 1940's or the 1950's. They are much better off.

There is social security, medical assistance, employment and many other things. This generation is much better off than the previous generation. The state has to make great investments in education, public health, national defense, in everything, but especially in development. The state has to make great investments. We have to do it. If we do not invest in development, what are we going to do? Could we put 2 more meters of clothes on ourselves and stop making fabrics? We cannot do it. In reality, our revolutionary process--which has faced difficult conditions--has been unable to avoid many sacrifices because we have had international solidarity.

We have had the socialist bloc's cooperation and, most importantly, we have had the Soviet Union's cooperation. [applause]

In the midst of the economic blockade, of the difficulties caused by the elimination of markets, how important our economic relations with the USSR have been for us. The fact that they buy our sugar, all the sugar we may wish to sell them, the fact that they have supplied us with fuel, the fact that they pay us prices that are well above world market prices, all of this has greatly helped our country, has helped our economic and social development plans. Had we not had this, then we would have been able to talk here of terrible sacrifices in order to wage the revolution, in order to be able to maintain our independence and even to defend ourselves. How much would we have had to pay for weapons. We would have had to buy on the world markets--and each tank, each cannon, each plane is very expensive.

To the extent that we have had the international solidarity of and good relations with the socialist bloc and have maintained optimal economic relations with the Soviet Union, we have received help so that today we may feel satisfied with our advances. We are able to say that there are no more illiterates in this country. We are able to say that we are about to reach the sixth grade and then another one. We are able to say that we have tens and tens of thousands of workers studying at the universities. We are able to say that there is practically no unemployment, no beggars, there are none of the past calamities. We are able to say that we have the lowest infant mortality rate in all of Latin America, comfortably below everybody else's. We are able to say that we have 1.04 million students in high school. [applause] We are able to say that we are getting through this world economic crisis in which we see nothing but calamities everywhere: unemployment, dismissals, conflicts. We are developing our 5-year plan in a quite satisfactory manner. We are advancing. We are having increasingly larger and more stable sugarcane harvests. We are constructing important industries. We do not deny that we have certain difficulties. We cannot say that the path is easy. It would be a lie to say that the path is easy. The path of development is a difficult one. In today's world it is difficult precisely because of the unequal exchange between the industrialized capitalist world and the Third World areas and we partially depend on that trade--but only partially. We cannot avoid that. But thanks to socialism in our country, thanks to our relations with the socialist bloc and with the Soviet Union, thanks to the efforts of our workers, the country is advancing and, regardless of the nature of its difficulties, it will continue advancing.

And we are already preparing not only for the next 5-year plan but also for a 20-year forecast plan, so that we may know what we are going to do in the next 20 years, being able to say we are going to look 20 years into the future. Under capitalism the country had to look 20 days into the future every year, 20 or just 10 days. Nobody knew what would happen in 20 days. But now we will be able to define our path and work in all of the country's regions.

One of the main virtues of the revolution is that it has worked throughout the country. It has taken its revolutionary work, its schools of all types--its technological, pre-university, vocational, sports and high schools everywhere.

The appearance of rural cities has been changing. Industries are being taken everywhere. Here we have delegates from everywhere. From Pinar del Rio--how much that city has changed over the past 7 or 8 years--or from Manzanillo or Holguin [applause] or from Tunas, Villa Clara, Cienfuegos, Guantanamo, Santiago, from any of them, but particularly from the poorest and most forgotten ones. In all of them an astonishing change is noticeable--day care centers, the hospitals, university schools, the universities, university sites and university schools are now found in practically all of the provinces of this country. So for the first time our nation has seen a just distribution of the means of production and of social benefits. And we will continue working in that direction. The union movement's role in this is decisive. Believe me, the revolution could not even begin to conceive of anything without the union movement. [applause]

Never mind what an administration may do. The worker is the key element, the decisive element. If we want to improve our services, if we wish to implement a more efficient educational system and continue with this system of improvement, if we want that service to be among the best in the world, that will depend essentially on the teachers and professors.

As we said at the opening of the present school year, if we want to continue improving our public health services and provide it with the utmost efficiency, that will basically depend on our doctors and on our health workers. Without their enthusiastic support and effort, nothing could be achieved.

And if we are going to promote construction, if we are going to improve transport, if we are to improve the ports, whatever we do, the workers, the human factor, the creators of the goods and services that the people consume, constitute the fundamental element. It is precisely the union movement which unites all of our workers. It is for this reason that it [the union] is of enormous and decisive importance, without which the party and the state could not confront this huge task.

The party's ranks are increasing among our working class. The main emphasis of this growth is being placed on winning workers over. Thus, we expect that there will be an increasing worker composition of our party.

The coming years will demand efforts and work. They will continue to be difficult years. There will be no easy years. But they will be years of continuous and certain advancement for our people and our revolution. We are not promising anything easy. It would be demagogic to say that the years ahead for this generation will be easy ones. They will be years of effort.

Once again I repeat that we will have to dedicate ourselves to development, mainly for the benefit of the future generations. But the present generations will also benefit by the immense spiritual and moral satisfaction derived from fulfilling the historic role it is fulfilling. I believe that all future generations will always remember gratefully and acknowledge what this revolutionary generation is doing. [applause]

Revolutionary, yes, truly revolutionary. This generation has a high spirit and a highly internationalist awareness. [applause] Its spirit reflects what our working class is today. Their conduct under the revolution, their work, their spirit and eternal enthusiasm reflect all that our workers are today. The internationalist combatants [applause] who fought in Angola and in Ethiopia [applause]--most of whom are workers and members of the reserves and reservists of our glorious Revolutionary Armed Forces [applause]--reflect what our workers are today. Their attributes are also reflected by the thousands of civilian technicians, construction workers, doctors, health workers and teachers who render their services in many parts of the world. The increasing demand for Cuban technicians constitutes an honor and a source of satisfaction for our fatherland. Many countries ask us for technicians, for technical cooperation and for doctors. Thus, export of technical services and constructions [servicios tecnicos y construcciones] is becoming an important economic resource for our country. What do you think of this? Before there were no doctors to send to Baracoa but now our doctors are all over the world. Our builders can be found in several parts of the world and the demand for them is increasing.

Look, I tell you the truth: I prefer this resource to tourism. I prefer it, but we are not going to give up the other one either. We need all the resources. [applause] We need them all. [applause]

But they are afraid of this country. Afraid, but afraid of what? Of a country whose combatants have shown all that they are capable of being, whose internationalist workers have shown all that they are capable of being. [applause] And this is the good thing about this period of the revolution--that it has gradually left behind it certain idealistic, utopian and unreal stages, all of which, nonetheless, originated from the most sincere revolutionary spirit.

Those mistakes have been gradually corrected. We have had to establish certain factors, certain material stimuli, certain concepts of how distribution should be brought about under socialism and how things should be administered under socialism. We are accumulating and using these experiences, but at the same time our conscientiousness and revolutionary spirit are intensifying. Thus, much fuel, so to speak, has been put into the fire of revolutionary fervor.

We have exhibited this same spirit, this internationalist spirit, in connection with voluntary work. In other words, alongside the measures imposed on us by reality are measures that increase and strengthen our communist awareness and our revolutionary spirit. And this should be one of our permanent indexes.

Speaking of indexes, there is one that speaks of a revolution. It can speak at each congress of the party and of the workers: We are becoming increasingly revolutionary. [applause] We are becoming increasingly Marxist-Leninist. [applause] We are becoming increasingly internationalist. [applause] And we are becoming increasingly communist. [applause]

We have held our workers congress amid a number of important and significant historic dates--the 22d anniversary of the uprising in Santiago de Cuba [applause], the 20th anniversary of the battle of Brisas, close to the day when we celebrate the 20th anniversary of the revolution. We close this congress today, 2 December, on the 22d anniversary of Granma. [applause]

On a day like today, a group of us went into the forests. Those were truly difficult days. We had great obstacles ahead of us. We had many enemy soldiers facing us. There was hunger, there was night. We were tired. There were many factors. Perhaps none of us could imagine then that 22 years later we would be closing this great congress, this great meeting. We have come a long way since then because we have lived together with you from 2 December 1956 to this congress of today, 2 December 1978. For that reason--after obstacles and difficulties were overcome--we can say that we have been, that we are and that we will be optimistic. Fatherland or death, we shall win! [applause]

Labor Congress Final Declaration

FL051302Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2110 GMT 2 Dec 78 FL

[Text of final declaration of 14th Congress of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers, CTC, read at final session by CTC Secretary General Roberto Veiga at Havana's Lazaro Pena auditorium--live]

[Text] Comrade Fidel Castro, first secretary of our party and president of the Councils of State and Ministers; comrades of the Politburo, Secretariat and Central Committee of the party; comrades of the Presidium, comrade guests, comrade delegates, comrades all:

Final resolution of the 14th CTC Congress: It reads as follows: We have held the 14th CTC Congress in Havana City from 28 November to 2 December 1978 with the inspiring presence of Comrade Fidel Castro and other leaders of the party, state and government, as well as a broad and prestigious representation of the international labor movement.

This event has been a continuation of the historic 13th congress and its deliberations and resolutions were guided by the teachings and example of our unforgettable teacher of labor cadres, Lazaro Pena. [applause] The participants in the congress worked hard so that its results would be worthy of our working people, our trade union organization and our glorious Communist Party. [applause]

With a deep spirit of criticism, revolutionary militancy and exemplary discipline, the delegates to the congress debated and approved the main report, new bylaws [of the CTC] and various resolutions and documents which summarize the vast and democratic process of discussion of theses and establish lines of action of the labor movement for coming years.

The representatives of all the country's workers, by means of their free, direct and secret vote, elected the CTC national council.

In turn, the latter elected at its first meeting the National Committee, the secretary general, the deputy secretary and the other members of the CTC Secretariat, as well as the chairman of the auditing and control committee.

The 14th congress is the culmination of a phase of intensive preparatory work characterized by the broadest, most active and exemplary democratic participation of the working masses.

The advances made by the trade unions in their contribution to the economic, political and social development of the country, to strengthen their internal activities, improve the political, cultural and social levels of the workers, promote socialist emulation, fulfill their inevitable duty as representatives and defenders of the rights of the workers, and in carrying out activities such as linking wages with productivity and in the sugar harvest, movement of innovators and rationalizers, microbrigades, internationalist missions and many others of unquestioned importance were confirmed when a review was made of the implementation of resolutions of the 13th CTC Congress and tasks for our organization emanating from the first party congress.

The congress was fair and forceful in pointing out the mistakes and deficiencies that still exist in the labor movement as well as in the administration. It also pointed out specific ways to tackle them and find progressive solutions. Furthermore, the congress joined in the deeply critical and self-critical character demonstrated by our trade unions during the entire preparatory process. It urged fighting consistently against the badly done wherever it is manifested and to fight it tenaciously and firmly, aware that this is how we truly help the revolution.

The 14th congress strongly emphasized the role, specific tasks and nature of the trade unions in our society. It has not been a congress of narrowminded and niggardly [economicistas] views. Above all, a revolutionary and socialist spirit and a determination to help more actively each day in the solution to the economic problems and other basic tasks demanded by the advance of our country prevailed at the congress.

The congress, vigorously and unanimously, was in favor of complete support for the economic policy outlined by our party and explained by Comrade Fidel. Essentially, it consists of devoting our fundamental efforts in the next few years to strengthen and consolidate the national economy, placing principal emphasis on development and not on consumption.

Convinced that our solutions must be not only fair but also must necessarily be based on the real possibilities of the economy, the delegates to the congress agreed that the work and wage measures proposed by the 13th congress and pending implementation should be linked to other mechanisms of work organization and be progressively implemented on the basis that they do not affect the balance of domestic finances.

It was emphasized that it is necessary to continue expanding the process of linking wages with productivity and improving it and to introduce the system of bonuses. Attention also was given to the handling of wages during interruptions, in assigning available workers and to the establishment of registers at work places.

The will of the congress was unanimous on carrying on with energy the objective of eliminating historic wages gradually and preventing their reappearance under any method or pretext.

A matter of cardinal importance, the congress called for the most active and effective contribution from the trade unions and working masses to the implementation of the economic planning and management system and all tasks derived from this system.

The congress placed special emphasis on the struggle to carry out the current sugar harvest successfully, complete the [sugar] production and shipment plan with the greatest efficiency and simultaneously prepare for the 1980 harvest. In the same manner it stressed the need to make a vigorous and resolute effort aimed at tackling the problem of producing spare parts for sugar harvest equipment and advance toward the development of our machinery industry.

In summary, the 14th congress placed maximum emphasis on the economic tasks of trade unions and on the struggle to increase production and productivity, achieve greater savings and raise quality and efficiency in all production and service sectors. It also emphasized that it is appropriate to offer the most resolute support to innovators and rationalizers, to strengthen the struggle to hold truly effective production assemblies and strengthen socialist emulation as the suitable method to stimulate achievement of these objectives. [The congress] pointed out ways to improve socialist emulation and adapt its indicators, with greater flexibility, to the requirements of each sector so that the principle that each triumph of the emulation truly is a triumph of the economy can become a reality.

The delegates reaffirmed the labor movement's resolution to make every effort toward the most complete interpretation and implementation of the occupational safety and health law.

The 14th congress reviewed the work done to improve the cultural and technical levels of the workers. It learned the important successes achieved in this field and emphasized its determination to crown victoriously in 1979 the battle for a sixth-grade education [of all workers] and thereby fulfill the commitment contracted with Fidel and the revolution. It decided to undertake immediately the battle for a ninth-grade education with the objective of graduating at this level half a million workers by 1985 and continue in the endeavor of developing qualified workers, middle-level technicians and university professionals.

The importance of using volunteer work with increasing force each day as the cornerstone for developing the revolutionary awareness of workers is contained among the most important resolutions of the congress. In the same manner, the congress regarded highly the work done in the fields of culture, sports and recreation of workers. In this regard it outlined objectives to be reached and expressed special interest in the solution of problems which currently affect the vacation plan.

As everyone knows the theses proposed that the administration and control of social clubs be transferred to the trade unions. The congress expressed satisfaction over the fact that control of social clubs in the capital already has been transferred to the trade unions which have committed themselves to insure that the facilities are given the most rational care and use.

The 14th congress favored giving the warmest support to the vital task of educating children and youth. It agreed to strengthen ties between working parents, trade unions, teachers, professors and schools. The role of trade unionsin the development of working youths, in close coordination with the Union of Young Communists [UJC], was the object of careful analysis based on the joint agreement signed to this effect [between the CTC and UJC].

As part of the most momentous objectives of the labor movement, the 14th CTC reiterated the constant importance of the political and ideological awareness of our workers; the unreconcilable struggle against opportunism, anticommunism, anti-Sovietism, chauvinism, Maoism and other trends hostile to socialism, progress and liberation of peoples; the intensification of ideas and deeds based on the noble principles of proletarian internationalism; the struggle against the remnants of the past that we still have; and development of a genuinely socialist attitude toward work, society and the property of all.

As prominent aspects of ideological work of the trade unions, there was insistence on the need to continue strengthening dissemination and propaganda work, especially as it concerns development of the newspaper TRABAJADORES in order to convert it into a daily organ of strong labor accent, technical quality and critical sense.

The congress considered that the effort being made for the complete equality of women and particularly the attention being paid to the requirements and problems of working women is a task of enormous ideological, social and human significance.

Agreements were reached aimed at continuing to offer all our support for the defense of the country and the unselfish work of our heroic, exemplary and victorious Revolutionary Armed Forces.

The congress called on the entire trade union movement to continue to unswervingly struggle so that the workers perform their duties and that their rights are defended, showing the revolutionary nonantagonistic role which the trade unions should take on in facing management.

At the same time it pointed out the work which should be carried out in paying attention to the labor boards in the struggle for socialist legality, juridical ordering of labor relations and coordination of the collective agreements. The measures supporting the programmed growth of housing construction plans and that of dealing with other social and labor problems were subjects of detailed study, followed by decisions made by the congress. The delegates to the event were briefed on the bases upon which the draft of the new social security law was written, which arose from the recommendations made at the 13th CTC Congress.

In reference to foreign relations the congress strongly proclaims its class and militant solidarity with the workers of the whole world who are struggling against capitalist exploitation, in confronting fascist-type tyrannies, confronting aggression, racism and apartheid, and who heroically fight to consolidate their revolutions in unceasingly facing imperialism and international reactionary forces.

In the same way, the congress ratified the line taken by our trade union movement to constantly lead, expand and intensify the fraternal relations which tie us to the trade unions from the socialist countries, and very especially with those from the dear Soviet Union [applause] to work arduously to fulfill the agreements adopted at the 9th WFTU congress and to undertake the most active participation in the heart of that and other international organizations and to energetically carry forward the development of joint action with all progressive forces which are participating in the WFTU, especially in Latin America and the Caribbean. The congress expressed its most resolute condemnation of the unrestrained arms race which is being undertaken by imperialism and it ratified the proposal to work hard in favor of detente and peace. It also expressed its sentiment of admiration and respect towards all compatriots, who as combatants or workers in different parts of the world and in exemplary ways give proof of the beautiful and high principles of proletarian internationalism. [applause]

The congress came out in favor of intensifyinging the cadre policy to the maximum, to give permanent attention to work norms and methods of our base organizations and management organs, to continue vigorously applying the principles of democratic centralism, collective management and the revolutionary practice of criticism and self-criticism at all levels. It also took special interest in improving and adapting the trade union structure to the new organization of the economy, and in the measures directed at continuing to invigorate financial austerity, which has been drawn up by the CTC to increase revenues and improve control.

The 14th congress reaffirmed its determination to continue strengthening the worker-peasant alliance, the immovable pillar upon which the new society we are building is resting. The congress expresses its emotional recognition of the ~~does~~ political and mass organizations, our exemplary Pioneers and the glorious Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] which precisely today has reached the 22d anniversary of its founding. [applause]

To all of them we offer our salute for the beautiful and warm messages which they sent to this important trade union meeting. The congress also expresses its most profound recognition of Comrades Fidel and Raul, and the rest of the members of the Politburo [applause], the Secretariat and the Central Committee, to the party cadres at the various levels and to all of its members, to the political and state leaders who have been with us during these days, to all those who have participated at this tribune giving us their valuable experiences and orientations. Their presence, support and encouragement is an incentive which obliges us to redouble our efforts on the various work fronts.

In concluding its work the 14th CTC Congress calls on all workers of the country, on all leaders and trade union activists to mobilize themselves to fulfill the agreements of this event, to work with revolutionary passion so that each of our resolutions become banners of combat and victory for the Cuban workers. [applause]

On this 20th anniversary of the triumph of the revolution may the proletarian, socialist, internationalist banners of the Cuban trade union movement fly higher than ever. [applause]

Long live the 14th CTC Congress! [applause and shouts of Viva from the audience]

Long live our Communist Party! [applause and shouts of Viva from the audience]

Long live Fidel! [applause and shouts of Viva from the audience]

Fatherland or death! We will win! [applause and shouts of Venceremos from the audience]

Castro Attends Reception

FL041718Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 4 Dec 78 FL

[Text] Commander in Chief Fidel Castro, first secretary of the PCC Central Committee and president of the Councils of State and Ministers, has attended the reception given in honor of national and foreign delegates to the 14th Congress of the Central Organization of Cuban Workers, CTC.

CTC Secretary General Roberto Veiga and other members of the PCC Central Committees, vice presidents of the Council of Ministers, leaders of mass organizations and members of the diplomatic corps accredited to Cuba also attended the reception.

During the reception, held at the Cubanacan Protocol Hall, the leader of the Cuban revolution talked with the delegates about the work of the 14th congress.

DELEGATION FROM BENIN TOURS ISLE OF YOUTH

FL302106Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2038 GMT 30 Nov 78 FL

[Text] A delegation from the People's Republic of Benin, headed by Col Rodriguez, chief of general staff of the national defense forces and minister of equipment of that African country, has toured areas of historic, economic and educational interest of the Isle of Youth. The delegation, which is also composed of Primary and Secondary Education Minister Commander Vincent Guezodja, visited the (Kardamarda) school for Ethiopian students, where it was given a warm and solidary welcome.

The visitors observed the system of study and work combined with sports and cultural activities. The students presented a program of Ethiopian songs and dances. While at the revolution museum, the former Modelo Prison, the visitors were shown the prison cell where the chief of the Cuban Revolution was confined.

FAR COMMEMORATES BENIN INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY

FL011307Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 1 Dec 78 FL

[Text] The Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] yesterday commemorated the national day of the People's Republic of Benin, an African country which on 30 November 1972 proclaimed its independence. Colonels Juan Escalona, deputy chief of the FAR General Staff, and Richard Rodriguez, Benin chief of national defense forces general staff and minister of equipment, spoke at the event which was held at the Commander Camilo Cienfuegos artillery school. The two speakers stressed the ties of friendship which unite our two peoples and they referred to the Benin people's history of struggle first for independence and then in building a new society under the guidance of their President Mathieu Kerekou.

PROMOTION OF ARMED FORCES OFFICERS REPORTED

FL011316Y Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 1 Dec 78 FL

[Text] A numerous group of officers from Revolutionary Armed Forces [FAR] Ministry directorates, units and branches were promoted to the next grade at a ceremony held at the Gen Maximo Gomez FAR academy auditorium. The ceremony was presided over by Div Gen Abelardo Colome Ibarra and Brig Gen Sixto Batista Santana, both FAR vice ministers and members of the PCC Central Committee.

Additional Promotions

FL022001Y Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 2 Dec 78 FL

[Text] A group of officers of the eastern army was promoted in a ceremony held at the mausoleum to the martyrs of the Frank Pais eastern second front. The ceremony is part of the activities commemorating the 22d anniversary of the Revolutionary Armed Forces and the 20th of the triumph of the revolution. The ceremony was presided over by Jose Ramon Balaguer, member of the PCC Central Committee and first party secretary in Santiago de Cuba Province.